

Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Should the CNMI grant improved immigration status to long-term alien workers?

Yes-100

No-46

Sunday April 20, 2008

INSIDE



Sliding Dollar

The dollar's plunge might be preventing Americans from taking that European vacation this summer, but it could be the very thing saving their 401(k)s from buckling.

Business...Page 14



Shattered Dream

For a time, "Harry Potter" superfan Steven Vander Ark seemed to be living a geeky dream.

Life & Style...Page 18

NMI must be capable of handling hazmat emergency in first few days. **PAGE 2**
Langdon Jr. now a Washington State Trooper. **PAGE 6**

GAO: Increase in worker permit fees is probable

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

Employers can expect to pay more for worker permits under the proposed federalized immigration system for the Northern Marianas.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office, in its legal analysis of S. 2739, says the fees for the transition period programs are still undetermined, but an increase is probable.

See **INCREASE** on Page 4

DOC chief says no VIP treatment for Miura

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER



Miura

Japanese businessman Kazuyoshi Miura is being treated humanely at the Department of Corrections just like any other detainees, according to DOC commissioner Lino Tenorio.

"No special treatment," said Tenorio in an interview with the *Saipan Tribune*.

See **DOC** on Page 4



JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

NAVY VISIT

The USS *Higgins* (DDG 76) is seen docked at the Port of Saipan upon its arrival Sunday. Its Commander Winton Smith heads the 505-foot and 8,373-ton Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer. It has 330 personnel and is home-ported at San Diego, California. This is the *Higgins'* first visit to Saipan. It will depart the island on April 24. Inset shows U.S. Navy personnel aboard the USS *Higgins*.

CNMI to receive \$15M stimulus package next month

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The Department of Finance expects to receive the CNMI's portion of the federal economic stimulus package next month.

See **CNMI** on Page 4

Moms and young children from Texas ranch to be parted

By MICHELLE ROBERTS
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SAN ANGELO, Texas (AP)—Adult mothers who have been allowed to stay with their young children since they were taken from a polygamous sect will be separated from them after DNA sampling is completed next

See **MOMS** on Page 4



Members of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints file out of the Tom Green County Courthouse following the custody hearing in San Angelo, Texas on Friday, April 18, 2008.

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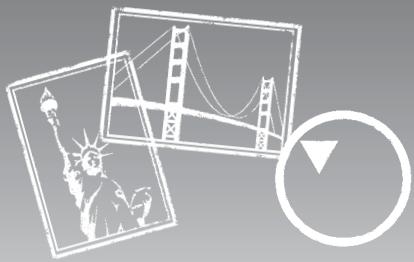
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Local

NMI must be capable of handling hazmat emergency in 1st few days

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

It is very important for the CNMI to have its own capability to handle a hazardous material emergency at least in a few days, according to two hazmat experts.

All Hazard Management Professionals (AMPRO) president and lead instructor John Scott told the *Saipan Tribune* that the CNMI's Emergency Response Team for Hazmat is very important for an island like the Commonwealth.

"We can't just ask for help right next door and somebody can be here in a couple of hours. Even FEMA will take three to four days to actually get teams to respond," Scott said.

The lead instructor underscored the need for Saipan to have its own capability to handle hazmat emergency at least the first three to four days.

Scott and AMPRO's assistant instructor J.D. Robinson and safety manager Terry Badley trained last week at Palms Resort Saipan 25 members of the CNMI's Emergency Response Team for Hazmat on

hazardous materials.

The Emergency Management Office sponsored the training.

Scott said the training applies to what is called all-hazard response.

"It could be a chemical accident. It could be a biological event like pandemic flu. It could be a weapon of mass destruction or terrorist incident," Scott said.

Robinson said creating a hazmat response team in the CNMI is a huge help.

"They don't have the military here with already developed

teams to perform this mission. So basically they are on their own to be self-sufficient if a matter like this will happen," Robinson said.

The hazmat training, he stressed, is a federally mandated course that one would have to have gone through to be able to work in this kind of hazardous environment.

"So it is very important. The more people we trained the better the public response is going to be when the incident does happen," Robinson added.

House passes bill setting minimum requirements for banks with govt deposits

The House of Representatives has passed a measure setting minimum requirements for banks to meet before any public funds are deposited into them.

Under the bill, sponsored by Vice Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero, banks must meet certain criteria before they can receive government deposits.

Funds amounting to less than \$100,000 must be deposited only with banks insured by a federal agency or a U.S. Treasury listed surety agency. All of the deposited funds in excess of the insurance coverage should be secured by bank assets valued at all time at 100 percent of the excess funds. Bank assets that serve as collateral for the public funds should be in the form of U.S. Treasury bonds and U.S.

government agency securities.

The House-approved bill also included amendments to the original version.

A grandfathering provision was added for banks not in compliance when the bill is signed into law. The conditions are that the bank must furnish and pledge security in the form of U.S. Treasury bills valued at 100 percent of the deposits, come into compliance with the law within 10 years of the effective date, and issue disclosures of public deposits on a quarterly basis.

The House-passed bill also "mandates," rather than merely empower, the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Finance to issue regulations to

See **HOUSE** on Page 4

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Govendo orders distribution of 2 Rota lands on probate since 1991

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has ordered the distribution of two land properties in Rota that has been the subject of probate proceedings since 1991.

Govendo issued the distribution of Juan M. Mendiola's estate after finding that the objectors have failed to prove that the deceased (Juan Mendiola) conducted a partida.

A partida occurs when the father calls the entire family together and outlines the division of property among his children.

Govendo said each of the five direct decedents of Juan M. Mendiola shall receive an equal portion of both the Gaonan property and the Mananana property.

Govendo said both properties shall be divided in accordance with the drawing of lots according to the court's order of June 24, 2005.

The judge said the probate shall remain open until the estate is compensated for the taking of real property for the widening of the road.

"Any payment received for the taking of the real property by the government to widen the road shall first be used to pay attorney's fees before being further distributed," he said.

Govendo said all attorneys

shall submit a detailed billing of the fees and costs for his approval.

According to court records, Juan M. Mendiola, died in the 1930s while living on Rota during the Japanese occupation.

Juan M. Mendiola was married three times and all of his wives predeceased him. He had six children who survived him. These were Pio A. Mendiola, Santiago A. Mendiola, Felix A. Mendiola, Francisco Q. Mendiola, Rosalita M. Manglona, and Maria M. Borja.

The six children who survived him were all deceased at the time of the hearing.

The assets of Juan M. Mendiola's estate are real property located on Rota.

One lot referred to by the heirs as the Mananana property contains 108,549 square meters (10 hectares).

A Title Determination of Ownership issued in 1958 determined that the heirs of Juan M. Mendiola, represented by Santiago A. Mendiola, owned 40 hectares of land commonly referred to by the heirs as the Agusan property.

In January 1994, the Marianas Public Land Corp. and the estate of Juan M. Mendiola executed a deed of exchange in

which the 40 hectares of Agusan property was exchanged for approximately 40 hectares of Gaonan property.

The 40 hectares of Gaonan property are comprised of parcels of land such as the 322,310 square meters and a 72,497 square meters.

The Gaonan property is entirely owned in fee simply by the Juan M. Mendiola estate.

The CNMI has taken 15,408 square meters of land from two parcels of lands, including from the 322,310 square meters of lot, through eminent domain condemnation rights.

The taking of the real property was made without compensation being given to either the estate or to any of the heirs of Juan M. Mendiola.

Lots were drawn and the subdivided property was distributed through that drawing of lots to each of the five heirs.

Subsequent to the subdivision of the property and the drawing of lots, attorney Reynaldo O. Yana, made an appearance in this case in June 2006 on behalf of the heirs of Francisco Q. Mendiola.

The heirs of Francisco A. Mendiola claim that the decedent gave the Gaonan property consisting of 40 hectares to his

four boys—Pio A. Mendiola, Santiago A. Mendiola, Felix A. Mendiola, and Francisco Q. Mendiola.

Felix A. Mendiola died without any heirs.

The heirs of Francisco Q. Mendiola further claimed that the decedent gave his two daughters, Maria Q. Mendiola and Rosalia A. Mendiola, property that had a combined area of six hectares.

The heirs of Francisco Q. Mendiola claimed that decedent distributed this property by a partida in the 1930s.

In his decision issued on Friday, Govendo said the objectors claim that Juan M. Mendiola took his children to the Gaonan property and divided it amongst them. However, Govendo noted, at the time that this event is claimed to

have occurred, Juan M. Mendiola was not in possession of the Gaonan property; it had been seized by the Japanese.

The objectors, the judge pointed out, failed to bring forth adequate evidence to support his claim that a partida occurred.

The objectors supply two pieces of evidence. The first is a letter written in 1987 by Francisco Mendiola that recounts his recollection of the event, when he would have been only 5 years old.

The second is a land commission writing dated Aug. 25, 1958, which was purportedly written by Santiago Mendiola.

"Neither of these documents is substantial enough to support the objectors' claim that a partida took place," Govendo said.

The letter written in 1987, the judge said, is not sufficiently

persuasive value.

"The letter is clearly hearsay, but that is not the problem.

Hearsay is admissible to prove the decedent's intent in regards to a partida," he said.

The letter's problem, Govendo said, is that it represents the memories of an event experienced by a 5-year-old juvenile 50 years before it was recorded.

"The great passage of time between that experience and the writing of the letter, coupled with reliability issues of an event witnessed by a 5-year-old, strips this letter of any credibility," he said.

The land commission document. Govendo said, is of some persuasive value.

He said it represents an account by a witness to the sup-

See **GOVENDO** on Next Page



Govendo



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MOMS

From Page 1

week, a child welfare official said Saturday.

State District Judge Barbara Walther late Friday ordered that parents and children of the Yearning For Zion Ranch submit DNA samples to help sort out family relationships that have confounded authorities since 416 children were taken into state custody two weeks ago.

Sampling is to begin Monday and will probably take several days to com-

plete, said Darrell Azar, a spokesman for Child Protective Services. Results could take more than a month.

Once sampling is complete, the agency will begin moving the children from the San Angelo coliseum and fairgrounds to other sites.

Child welfare officials allowed adult mothers with children ages 4 and younger to stay together when the state took custody of the rest of the children from the ranch. Now, only mothers younger than 18 will be allowed to remain with their children once the sampling is complete. The welfare agency will also try to keep

siblings together, he said.

"We're going to make these transitions as easy as possible," Azar said. "We want to keep them together as much as possible so they don't feel they're completely isolated from their culture or the people they know."

Child welfare officials have said figuring out how sect members are related has been difficult because of evasive or changing answers members have given them.

Families that include half brothers and sisters, and those that include reportedly married first cousins, can be particularly challenging to unravel. Dr.

Arthur Beaudet, chairman of the Department of Molecular and Human Genetics at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, said DNA testing can easily deal with these types of complexities.

"It's reasonable to say the information (from testing) will give full proof documentation" as to which parents belong to which children, he said.

Although the many unique family ties found in the sect will probably add a level of difficulty for DNA analysts in determining parentage, Beaudet said, the added complexity is still "not a significant concern."

A certain number of DNA markers—segments of the DNA with specific genetic characteristics—are tested to determine whether two people are related. Beaudet said that if any uncertainties arise, analysts simply test additional markers.

More than 400 children will be tested, but officials have not said how many adults will be tested. Such a considerable amount of DNA testing is not new but is usually associated with trying to identify victims of mass violence or natural disasters.

Walther on Friday continued an emergency order giving the state custody of the children after a sometimes

chaotic two-day hearing in which the state argued that the teachings of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints jeopardized children.

The child welfare agency has said that the sect encourages adolescent girls to marry older men and have children, and that boys are groomed to become future perpetrators. Sect members deny the allegations.

Individual hearings will be set for the children over the next several weeks, and the judge will determine whether they are moved into permanent foster care or can be returned to their parents. All of the hearings must be held by June 5.

The custody case is one of the nation's largest and most complicated. The ruling Friday capped two days of testimony that sometimes became disorderly as hundreds of lawyers for children and parents competed to defend their clients in two rooms linked by a video feed.

The April 3 raid on the Yearning For Zion Ranch was prompted by a call made to a family violence shelter, purportedly by a 16-year-old girl who said her 50-year-old husband beat and raped her. That girl has never been identified.



SHOW-STOPPER

A lock is seen while 7-year-old Julie Conner peaks through a glass window of the now defunct Hollywood Theaters-Saipan Megaplex yesterday. The theater's seven-screen complex will close for a month while its owner, U.S.-based Wallace Theaters Corp., evaluates the Saipan economy. The theater complex opened in 1999.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

DOC

From Page 1

"We're trying to stick to the very basic way of treating the inmates...basically the same as everybody else," he said.

The DOC commissioner said they were able to accommodate the request of Miura's counsel, but only to "a very minimal extension, not too much."

"It's only the understanding of the time differences between here and Japan and the states as far as Miura calling the wife and the states for the attorney," Tenorio said.

Other than that, the commissioner said, Miura is limited with the three-minute phone calls a day.

Tenorio said the detainee is actually given two phone calls a day because he is given extra minutes at nighttime for him to call his wife or his attorney.

Miura has been in detention since authorities arrested him at the Saipan International Airport last Feb. 22 in

connection with the murder of his wife in Los Angeles in 1981.

The defense team of Miura and the Attorney General's Office last week agreed to request the Superior Court to allow a two-week extension for Miura to file his petition for habeas corpus.

Following the stipulation by the parties in the case, Superior Court associate judge Ramona V. Manglona granted the request.

Miura's counsel, Bruce Berline, and chief prosecutor Jeffery Warfield Sr., reached an agreement for an extension due to a hearing in the Superior Court of Los Angeles next week, April 23.

In the stipulation, Berline and Warfield said the April 23 hearing is about Miura's motion to quash the underlying California arrest warrant against the defendant in the L.A. Superior Court.

The lawyers said a ruling from that motion "may be dispositive" of the extradition matter filed against Miura in the CNMI Superior Court.

Manglona's earlier order required Miura's counsel to file such petition

by April 18.

Berline and Warfield, however, agreed to request the court to extend the briefing schedule for the petition, opposition and reply.

The parties requested that the petition would be due on or before May 2, 2008.

They agreed that any opposition brief from the AGO and or the State of California would be due on or before May 16, 2008.

Any reply brief filed by Miura would be due on or before May 19, 2008.

Last Friday, the San Diego Superior Court dismissed a murder charge a Mexican man who had already served a sentence in Mexico for murdering his wife 20 years ago. The court cited the principle of avoiding double jeopardy, in which a person may not be tried twice over the same crime.

The Saipan legal team of Miura earlier expressed belief that the San Diego court's double jeopardy ruling will have a strong impact on Miura's murder case.

after it receives the money from the U.S. government.

It is not clear if both resident and nonresident taxpayers are eligible for the tax rebates. But it was learned that some local taxpayers had received letters from the IRS stating that they would receive tax rebates.

Under the law, tax rebates of \$600 per individual, \$1,200 per couple, and \$300 per child, are to be provided to taxpayers. The bill guarantees workers who earned at least \$3,000 in 2007 will receive at least a \$300 tax rebate.

The rebates would phase out gradu-

ally for single taxpayers whose adjusted gross incomes exceeds \$75,000 and for couples with incomes over \$150,000.

The law includes the provision for federal coverage of the tax rebates for qualifying taxpayers and families in the territories. It protects the local treasury from any loss that would otherwise be incurred for payout of the tax rebates mandated by the relief measure.

The legislation also calls for tax cuts for small businesses. The bipartisan plan doubles the amount small businesses can immediately write off their taxes for capital investments.

GOVENDO

From Page 3

posed partida who was recording the event on a land document.

"However, this solitary document alone cannot support the claim of a partida that would result in the heirs of two of Juan M. Mendiola's children being denied their possible inheritance," Govendo said.

Without further corroborating evidence, the judge added, the land commission document is just not enough evidence to support the objectors's claim of a partida.

"The Court cannot find that a partida took place based solely upon the decades old memory of an event that took place when the witness was a very young child and a half-century-old hand-written document," he said.

HOUSE

From Page 2

enforce the Act.

Further, it expands the types of loans offered to Commonwealth residents to include educational student loans and loans for renewable energy and energy efficiency, as a basis for giving preference to

particular banks among those that meet the requirements of the Act.

The measure addresses concerns raised by the Office of the Public Auditor in 2002 in relation to government deposits. The audit came after the collapse of Bank of Saipan placed approximately \$16 million in government deposits at risk.

The bill now heads to Senate. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

INCREASE

From Page 1

Under the proposed legislation, the CNMI-only work permit fee includes \$150 paid by employers annually to fund vocational education in the CNMI.

But the GAO said it is not known how the full fee will compare to the current CNMI foreign worker permit fee of \$250 a year.

In addition to the \$250 worker permit fee paid by employers, foreign workers currently pay an annual alien registration fee of \$25.

After the end of the transition period and any extensions of the CNMI-only work permit program, standard U.S. fees would apply, including Department of Labor fees for labor certification, Department of Homeland Security petition fees paid by the employer, and Department of State visa fees paid by the worker.

The current fees for U.S. foreign worker permits range higher than the CNMI's current fees for foreign workers.

The existing U.S. fee for an H-1B or specialty worker visa ranges from \$320

to \$2,320. The range includes supplemental fees of \$750 or \$1,500 and fraud prevention fee of \$500 required for some petitions.

For an H-2A or agricultural worker visa, the fee is \$320 for petition and \$100 plus \$10 for each additional worker for DOL certification.

For an H-2B or non-agricultural worker visa, the fee is \$470, which includes \$320 for petition and \$150 fraud prevention fee.

Changes are also expected in required bond costs. Currently, CNMI law has varying bond requirements for employers. But one option is for employers to pay \$75 per worker into a revolving trust fund.

U.S. laws provide discretionary federal authority to impose bonds of between \$5 and \$15 per worker on employers and \$500 on the alien. But GAO cited DHS as saying that nonimmigrant bonds are rarely required.

The federalization bill would allow DHS to charge fees to recover the full cost of providing adjudication and naturalization services, including any administrative costs.

Meanwhile, the bill would remove the CNMI's ability to collect fees for immigration and naturalization.

CNMI

From Page 1

Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos told a legislative committee on Friday that the local government had reached an agreement with the U.S. Internal Revenue Service on the release of the funds.

CNMI taxpayers will collectively receive about \$15 million in tax rebates.

Inos said the IRS is expected to transfer the money to the CNMI in mid-May 2008. He said the Finance Department will start processing the checks soon

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Buck Consultants to meet with Legislature this week

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund actuary will meet with the Legislature this Friday to talk about its latest assessment of the CNMI government's pension program.

Buck Consultants will also discuss the contribution rate that the actuary has determined the government should pay to the Fund.

The joint meeting of the House of Representatives and the Senate will take place at 10:30am, April 25, 2008, at the House chamber.

Fund administrator Mark Aguon has urged all government agencies to send a representative to the meeting, "as all

departments will be financially affected by the findings of the Fund's actuary."

The latest actuarial report will update projections made by Buck Consultants in 2006, shortly after three Fund-related laws were enacted.

Those laws created a new defined contribution plan, extended the targeted funding date of the pension plan from 2020 to 2045, and suspended government contributions to the plan until Oct. 1, 2007.

Then, Buck Consultants projected that the suspension of the contributions would shorten the Fund's lifetime by five years. Other findings were:

■ If contributions are made according to the actuary's rec-

ommendations (39.7 percent of payroll), the Fund's assets will remain positive through 2033, and perhaps longer.

■ If contributions are made according to recent practice (24 percent of payroll), the Fund's assets will last until 2024.

Langdon Jr. now a Washington State Trooper

Michael R. Langdon, Jr. graduated on April 15, 2008, from the Washington State Patrol Academy and was commissioned on April 16 as a Washington State Trooper in Olympia, Washington.

Langdon was one of 49 cadets to complete the intense, 11-month training course. He stated "It took a lot of sacrifice, patience, and perseverance, but

it was all worth it." The ceremony was held at the State Capitol Rotunda. Several dignitaries were on hand to deliver speeches and congratulatory remarks.

Washington Governor Christine Gregoire said in front of a standing-room only crowd, "Today the class joins the finest state patrol organization of

contributions continue according to recent practice (24 percent of payroll), the Fund's lifetime will be extended from 2024 until 2032.

■ If no new benefits are under the plan, and contributions stop entirely, the Fund's lifetime will

be shortened from 2024 to 2016.

That the government would fail to contribute to the Fund beyond 2007 was not factored in the assessment. To date, the Fund has not received employer contributions for fiscal year 2008.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Michael R. Langdon, Jr., left, receives his diploma after graduating last April 15, 2008, from the Washington State Patrol Academy.

the entire United States."

Langdon served as a police officer in Saipan for seven years and gives credit to the officers as well as the command staff for the fine training and guidance he received while working for the Department of Public Safety.

When asked what he considered was the biggest difference between working on Saipan and Washington as an officer of the peace, Langdon laughed, "At the top of the list, it's got to be the ice-cold weather. It gets really cold during the winter. Even now in the spring, it still

snows. Roads become covered in ice and snow and only add to the traffic congestions.

Longtime residents of Dandan, Saipan, Langdon and Mona Pangelinan Manglona now reside in Federal Way, Washington, along with their three children.

Langdon is proud to say that he is the first and only one from Saipan to complete training and become a Washington State Trooper. When asked for any words of encouragement, he smiled and said "anything is possible when you put your mind to it." (PR)

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Nim's Island 1:10 1:35 3:15 3:45

The Ruins 1:15 3:15 5:15 7:15 9:15

21 1:40 4:00 6:20 8:25

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Never Back Down 1:35 4:00 6:25 8:50

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A GLIMPSE OF THE PAST

Looking back at the Mariana Islands the past 62 years



PHOTO BY DMS

From left, Toyota Motors Sales sales manager Mike Tanaka, Toyota Motor Corp. chairman Eiji Toyota, and Microl Corp. president David M. Sablan. The photo was taken in August 1978 outside of Microl Toyota in Oleai, Saipan.

Yana, Atalig still in jail, to appear in court this week

Attorneys Reynaldo O. Yana and Antonio M. Atalig are still in jail and are expected to appear in court this week.

Saipan Tribune learned that a status conference in the civil contempt against Yana and Atalig was for this Thursday at 9am.

At the status conference, Super-

ior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo may determine if he will order the continued imprisonment of the two lawyers.

Department of Corrections commissioner Lino Tenorio said Yana and Atalig are detained in the same cell.

Tenorio said the two lawyers

are receiving the same treatment just like any other detainees.

Yana and Atalig have been in jail since March 25 when Govendo threw them to jail for not complying with his order to return the \$1.3 million in attorney's fees that the two lawyers received in the controversial

Angel Malite estate probate.

Govendo ordered Yana and Atalig to report to DOC to serve their 30-day sentence for civil contempt.

Govendo said the two lawyers may purge the contempt by posting \$1,285,500. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 21, 2000

Hopwood woes still unresolved

The mediation board of the Public School System has failed to resolve the controversy hounding the island's lone government-run junior high school during a meeting earlier this week with the complaining teachers and Principal Lourdes Mendiola. The failure by the mediation board to address the unrest among Hopwood Junior High School teachers and administration officials forces the need for Board of Education members to convene to discuss ways to settle the dispute.

CUC braces for re-bidding of power project

At least the three top bidders on Saipan's new power plant will have the chance to bag the contract to build and operate the much delayed project under a plan to be presented to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation board next week. Members of CUC's policy-making body have tentatively set its meeting on April 27, the first after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed Public Law 12-1 which reinstated the original plan to install a plant with a capacity of up to 80 megawatts.

AGO asked to review rule on OT, comptime

The NMI Retirement Fund has asked the Attorney General's Office to issue a legal opinion whether overtime and compensatory time can be factored in when computing a member's length of credited service for retirement. NMIRF Administrator Juan S. Torres has expressed concern on the continued practice which he said may have "catastrophic financial impact" on the Fund if not immediately resolved.

April 21, 2003

Company warned on compliance

Four pending renewal applications face a tough review at the Department of Labor and Immigration following findings that the applicants' employer has been in violation of the local preference law. DOLI hearing officer Jerry Cody said in a recent administrative order that Midwest Trading Corp. has not been employing full-time resident workers since May 2002.

Wright not yet president-on college's website

Apparently, Northern Marianas College president Dr. Kenneth E. Wright has yet to be introduced to the college's website. Eight months after Wright assumed office as the college's new president, the institution's website has yet to be updated to reflect this change. In fact, it was only recently that the website removed the name of former NMC president Joaquin Sablan as president.

Suspected SARS case in NMI

A ranking government official has confirmed that the Department of Public Health has quarantined a person suspected to be afflicted with the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome. The highly reliable source, who wanted anonymity, said the department learned about the case "a few days ago." An earlier unconfirmed report said that the suspected person recently arrived from Thailand, which has recorded two SARS deaths and seven probable SARS cases.

April 21, 2004

One-two punch at the pump

Shell gas stations on Saipan increased their prices by 5 cents a gallon after midnight today, two days after their sole competitor in the CNMI-Mobil-increased pump prices at the same rate. As this developed, House Rep. Ray Yumul said he is looking at possibly introducing a measure that would cap gas prices in the CNMI. He said he would also consider reintroducing a divorce measure that would prohibit gas suppliers from engaging in retail.

Airline says high fuel prices to eventually impact its air fares

The steady increase in the price of crude oil in the world market has started to exact a toll on the operations of the region's main air carrier and could ultimately have an impact on its fare structure. Continental Micronesia is keeping mum on whether the recent spate of fuel price increases would amount to an increase in its airfares any time soon.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is soliciting proposals for the sale of the **SUNSET VILLA BEACH COTTAGES Lot No. 105 R 01, located in Sonton Rota**. The property spans 6,422 square meters and contains 14 unit rooms of 6 cottages, 4 deluxe and 4 super deluxe rooms all with ocean view.

The sale shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

1. Minimum bid - \$750,000.00.
2. Sale will be granted to the highest and or best offer.
3. Sunset Villa is being sold at its current condition, **"AS IS"**.
4. Sunset Villa is being sold **"WITHOUT WARRANTY"** of any type.
5. CDA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

Interested party or person may contact Oscar Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer (ACEO) at 234-6245 for further information and Nanette Atalig, at 532-9408 to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property will not constitute grounds for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer. All sales are final.

All proposals received will be opened at 4:00 p.m. on May 14, 2008 with the winner to be announced at a later date. Upon award, offerer is required to make a non-refundable deposit of 10% of the total price offer. Payment must be made by cash, cashier's check or credit card.

Interested party or person is asked to submit their proposal at the CDA Saipan Office in a sealed envelope identified as "Sunset Villa Proposal" to Mr. Oscar C. Camacho, ACEO. Deadline to submit bid is **4:00 p.m. Monday, May 14, 2008.**

Dated this 14th day of April, 2008.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

/s/ Oscar C. Camacho
Acting Chief Executive Officer



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NOTICE OF DISMISSAL
LABOR CASES

Monday, April 21, 2008, first notice • Monday, April 28, 2008, second notice

COMPLAINANTS IN THE FOLLOWING LABOR CASES: Each of the labor cases listed below has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office, Department of Labor. In each case, this is a final dismissal with prejudice. All claims, including all claims for money damages, and all claims for eligibility for transfer, have been dismissed. If not previously served, all persons listed in this notice are served with notice of the dismissal as of the date of second publication. A complainant served by means of this publication may obtain a copy of the hearing officer's order from the Administrative Hearing Office. A complainant whose case has been dismissed by the Administrative Hearing Office has fifteen (15) days in which to appeal the order. This publication does not affect any prior service personally or by mail on a complainant, and the time in which to appeal runs from the date of that service.

| CASE # | COMPLAINANT (S) | RESPONDENT (S) |
|---------------|-------------------------|---|
| LC 07-014 | Aiba, Tsuyoshi | Kumanomi dba Café de Colmar |
| LC 07-214 | An, Eun Hee | Oak Corporation |
| LC 05-061 | Anbedor, Renaluz L. | Sako Corporation |
| LC 07-077 | Anuran, Janeth M. | Manglona, Dwight |
| LC 07-161 | Azarcon, Eutemio Jr. D. | Tadeo, Wilson P. |
| LC 06-005 | Bai, Xa Hong | Taitingfong, Roman A. |
| LC 05-268 | Bai, Yu | Winner's Corporation |
| LC 07-036 | Belza, Ione M. | Herman's Modern Bakery |
| LC 07-278 | Bernabe, Carlito E. | Quichocho Security Services |
| LC 06-173 | Bernardo, Solina S. | Bema Corporation |
| LC 07-321 | Brillo, Shirley T. | Camacho Investment Corp. |
| LC 07-386 | Cabiao, Emelyn F. | Pacific Island Creation, Inc. |
| LC 05-104 | Chai, Bing Xiu | L and T Int'l. Corp. |
| LC 07-316 | Chen, Hui Zhu | Poong In, Inc. |
| LC 05-148 | Chen, Jinkun | United Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-384 | Chen, Junqing | Chen Wang Corporation |
| LC 07-289 | Chen, Leiyong | De Mei Development Corp. |
| LC 07-221 | Chen, Li | Poong In, Inc. |
| LC 07-288 | Chen, Lian | De Mei Development Corp. |
| LC 06-122 | Chen, Meier | Concorde Garment Corp. |
| LC 05-354 | Lin, Chunya | Rifu Apparel Inc. |
| LC 07-297 | Cueto, Benhur A. | JNJ Corporation |
| LC 05-399 | Cui, Cheng | Kairos Ent. Inc. |
| LC 07-348 | Deng, Lijun | Marianas GMT MGF, Inc. |
| LC 07-182 | Deng, Wenhong | Winner's Corporation |
| LC 07-326 | Dizon, Raymundo V. | Hi-Five Company, Ltd. |
| LC 06-318 | Elloso, Rolando D.C. | Valenzuelas Janitorial |
| LC 07-178 | Esconde, Ramonito O. | Pacific Rainbow (CNMI), Inc. |
| LC 06-295 | Esquerra, Antonio D. | Javili General Partnership |
| LC 07-193 | Fan, Dongjuan | Success Corporation |
| LC 07-346 | Fan, Xiaoli | Marianas GMT MGF, Inc. |
| LC 06-025 (T) | Fang, Shunfu | Crisostomo, Melvin K. |
| LC 07-344 | Fang, Yu | Marianas GMT MGF, Inc. |
| LC 07-196 | Francisco, Maria C.D.L. | Reyes, Rebecca |
| LC 05-317 | Gao, Yanying | Sako Corporation |
| LC 01-096 | Ge, Yuan Qin | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-347 | Geng, Luping | Marianas GMT MGF, Inc. |
| LC 05-274 | Gonzales, Baby B. | Reyes, Joaquin T. |
| LC 01-096 | Gu, Chun Lan | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-101 | Gu, Jianhua | Yong Cheng Corporation |
| LC 07-378 | Gu, Lianhua | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 05-352 | Guintu, Ramon F. | Sakisat, Raymond H. |
| LC 07-357 | Guo, Qiongying | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 05-317 | Han, Fang | Sako Corporation |
| LC 07-340 | He, Yunfei | Zhang's Corporation |
| LC 06-103 | Hong, Fu Hua | American Pacific Textile |
| 98-101-04 | Hossain, Alam | Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services |
| LC 07-362 | Hu, Guojun | Pacific Lucky Corporation |
| LC 07-392 | Huang, Chunyun | Chen Wang Corporation |
| 98-101-04 | Huo, Kazi A. | Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services |
| LC 06-339 | Ignacio, Gilbert P. | Sablán, Lisa P. |
| LC 03-488 | Jeong, Dong Wook | Falig, Mariano M. |
| LC 05-317 | Jia, Yun Hong | Sako Corporation |
| LC 05-401 | Jiang, Deke | Yodan Ent. Inc. |
| LC 01-096 | Jiang, Quan Mei | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 05-376 | Jiang, Wengqing | Micro Pacific Inc. |
| LC 07-173 | Jiao, Guangcai | TSP, Inc. |
| LC 06-136 | Jin, Fenghua | Hyunjin Saipan, Inc. |
| LC 07-274 | Jin, Guangxu | K.S. Chang Corporation |
| LC 07-375 | Jin, Shunnu | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 07-380 | Jin, Shunyu | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 07-296 | Jovelo, Freddie O. | Jiashen Huang dba Leche |
| LC 05-051 | Ju, Dong Mei | Rifu Apparel Corporation |
| LC 05-103 | Kang, Aihong | United Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-385 | Ko, Jin Hang | Dr. Ko, LLC |
| LC 05-317 | Leng, Wen Xia | Sako Corporation |
| LC 07-117 | Li, Feng Ye | Cabrera, Edward C. |
| LC 07-360 | Li, Guoxing | Pacific Jang's Corporation |
| LC 07-353 | Li, Lianyu | Jung Uk Corporation |
| LC 07-372 | Li, Xiao Yan | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 07-388 | Li, Xiuzhi | Ben Tang Game Room |
| LC 05-156 | Liang, Fushi | Winners II Corp. |
| LC 01-024 | Liang, Jian Ling | Li Heng Ltd. |
| LC 01-024 | Liang, Li Ping | Li Heng Ltd. |
| LC 06-275 | Lim, Elizabeth P. | Lucky Corporation |
| LC 07-109 | Lim, Romeo Y. | Loste, Eleanor A. |
| LC 06-040 | Lin, Bing Rong | Taitingfong, Roman A. |
| LC 05-177 | Lin, Hong Mei | I&J Corp. |
| LC 02-041 | Lin, Yawen | FWL Associates Inc. |
| LC 07-219 | Lin, Zhang | WZ Corporation |
| LC 07-102 | Liu, Guihua | LCKG Company, Ltd. |
| LC 07-124 | Liu, Renging | Neo Fashion |
| LC 07-374 | Lu, Dai Fang | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 04-305 | Lu, Fengqin | Concorde GMT MFG Corp. |
| LC 07-295 | Lu, Kaifeng | Success Corporation |
| LC 01-024 | Lu, Yan Ling | Li Heng Ltd. |
| LC 07-144 | Lu, Yinxiang | Jin Ji Corporation |
| LC 06-213 | Lu, Yuhua | Long Teng Corp. |
| LC 07-356 | Lui, Damei | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 05-398 | Luo, Guorong | Sun Mei Corp. |

| CASE # | COMPLAINANT (S) | RESPONDENT (S) |
|---------------|-----------------------|---|
| LC 07-355 | Macam, Onofre B. | Agbanlog, Ignacio C. Jr. |
| LC 07-291 | Manalo, Ruby A. | Ellis Miller dba EWGE |
| LC 06-277 | Mario, Aquino V. | Cruz, Theresa R. |
| LC 07-167 | Martinez, Rosmari N. | Tadeo, Wilson P. |
| 98-101-04 | Miah, Md. Alam | Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services |
| LC 06-294 | Miao, Guojun (ER) | Zhang, Hua (EE) |
| LC 07-369 | Monteclaro, Danilo B. | Greenstone International |
| CAC 98-101-04 | Nebreja, Erma O. | Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services |
| LC 06-143 | Okawa, Kiyoshi P. | Mabu Corp. dba Ken Restaurant |
| LC 05-042 | Ou, Chunming | Marianas Fashion, Inc. |
| LC 07-324 | Pan, Ping | Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc. |
| LC 07-299 | Parocha, Eduardo S. | Sablán Betelnut Distribution |
| LC 07-345 | Pei, Honglian | Marianas GMT MGF, Inc. |
| LC 07-325 | Pesigan, Andrea T. | Bateman, Bruce A. |
| LC 06-284 | Piao, Yongzhe | Vision Corporation |
| LC 05-172 | Qian, Guoqiang | United Int'l Corp. |
| LC 05-317 | Qu, Zhi Yun | Sako Corporation |
| LC 05-178 | Quan, Yu | Top Fashion Corp. |
| LC 07-017 | Quiambao, Angelito J. | Dela Rosa, Elinor |
| 98-101-04 | Rahim, Md. Abdur | Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services |
| 98-101-04 | Rashid, Harun Ur | Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services |
| LC 07-240 | Salamat, Joel C. | M.R. Phillips Enterprises |
| LC 07-285 | Sanchez, Aurora D.C. | Rifu Apparel Corporation |
| LC 07-032 | Shang, Jijiang | Pacific Lucky Corporation |
| LC 06-029 | Shi, Changsan | Commonwealth Garment MFG, Inc. |
| LC 07-379 | Shi, Xi | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 07-125 | Shuang, Ruijiao | Winner's Corporation |
| LC 05-253 | Song, Xiaowei | Top Fashion Inc. |
| LC 07-155 | Su, Rulong | Sam Kwang Saipan, Inc. |
| LC 06-340 | Su, Xu | Poong In Saipan, Inc. |
| LC 01-096 | Sun, Hui Ling | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-343 | Sun, Xiaoyan | Marianas GMT MGF, Inc. |
| 98-101-04 | Taher, Md Abu | Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services |
| LC 07-320 | Tanghal, Cilda B. | Guzman, Linlingay E. |
| LC 05-317 | Tong, Yu Xui | Sako Corporation |
| 98-101-04 | Uddin, Mohammed S. | Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services |
| 98-101-04 | Ullah, Md. Shafi | Lozano, Nelia D dba Seiko Employment Services |
| LC 07-313 | Wang, Haihua | American Sai Green |
| LC 07-377 | Wang, Haixia | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 07-318 | Wang, Hong | Pheonix Corporation |
| LC 06-158 | Wang, Ling Fang | Hyunjin Saipan, Inc. |
| LC 06-163 | Wang, Yanzhen | American Sai Green Corp. |
| LC 01-096 | Wang, Zhong Hua | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 06-271 | Weng, Guangxiong | Napias Corp. |
| LC 06-119 | Wu, Liyu | Concorde Garment Corp. |
| LC 07-294 | Xia, Naijun | Wah Li, Inc. |
| LC 07-233 | Xing, Xiao Yu | Shun Yi American Corp. |
| LC 01-096 | Xu, Jin Ping | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-359 | Xu, Shunying | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 07-319 | Xu, Xiang Ling | US CNMI Development Corp. |
| LC 06-016 | Xu, Zhang Yu | Concorde Garment Corp. |
| LC 02-041 | Xu, Zhenlong | FWL Associates Inc. |
| LC 01-096 | Xu, Zhi Xiu | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-181 | Xue, Boun | Success Corporation |
| LC 06-261 | Yaekmum, Suthian | United Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-205 | Yan, Yingyue | Top Fashion Corporation |
| LC 05-050 | Yang, Bao Guo | United Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-020 | Yang, Gao Fang | Modern, Inc. and Danny Siu |
| LC 06-147 | Yang, Wan Jun | Concorde Garment Corp. |
| LC 01-096 | Yao, Da Bin | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-191 | Ye, Jiamin | Top Fashion Corporation |
| LC 05-160 | Ye, Shui Yuan | New Times Inc. |
| LC 05-146 | Yu, Shu Xia | Micro Pacific Inc. |
| LC 07-358 | Yu, Weihong | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 06-011 | Zeng, Li Ying | Seishin Farm, Inc. |
| LC 03-193 | Zhang, Dao Chang | Nick's & Michael Corp. |
| LC 05-097 | Zhang, Fukui | Sako Corporation |
| LC 05-383 | Zhang, Hairu | Concorde Garment Corp. |
| LC 06-016 | Zhang, Jaijing | Concorde Garment Corp. |
| LC 01-096 | Zhang, Ju Ying | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-194 | Zhang, Naqin | Jin Ji Corporation |
| LC 06-048 | Zhang, Qing | Date Corporation |
| LC 05-236 | Zhao, Chun | US CNMI Dev. Corp. |
| LC 05-211 | Zheng, Jinshu | United Int'l Corp. |
| LC 05-110 | Zhong, Qin | Rifu Apparel Corp. |
| LC 01-096 | Zhong, Yi Ping | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 06-085 | Zhou, Cuixia | Concorde Garment Corp. |
| LC 01-096 | Zhou, Guo Ying | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 06-071 | Zhou, Lina | Winners Corporation |
| LC 07-283 | Zhou, Qisen | Y.M. Corporation |
| LC 07-143 | Zhou, Yincheng | Jin Ji Corporation |
| LC 06-237 | Zhou, Yingying | Long Teng Corp. |
| LC 01-096 | Zhu, Cai Hong | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 07-275 | Zhu, Haimei | Yong Cheng Corporation |
| LC 01-096 | Zhu, Hui-Hong | L&T Int'l Corp. |
| LC 06-008 | Zhu, Jin Hong | Michigan, Inc. |
| LC 07-376 | Zhu, Wen Mei | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 07-373 | Zhu, Yinchuan | Sam Kwang Saipan Corp. |
| LC 06-281 | Zhu, Zhongping | Rifu Apparel, Inc. |
| LC 07-264 | Zhuang, Xuezan | Yong Cheng Corporation |

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
PUBLIC NOTICE

AS OF MAY 1, 2008, THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS. EVERY APPLICATION MUST BE COMPLETE WITH ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION WHEN PRESENTED AT THE WINDOW.

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

A less cruel punishment

The Supreme Court has spoken: The current method of injection to execute inmates does not constitute cruel and unusual punishment. But this declaration, delivered in a splintered, 97-page opinion Wednesday, should not end the public debate about capital punishment — nor about whether states, as long as executions continue, should consider alternatives that may be more humane and reliable and less likely to impose unnecessary pain.

The case revolved around the three-drug process used in Kentucky and the 34 other states that administer lethal injection. First, a general anesthetic is injected intravenously to render the inmate unconscious; if administered correctly, this drug should prevent the inmate from feeling pain. A second drug paralyzes the inmate; this drug is meant to preserve the dignity of the process — for the inmate and those present — by preventing muscle spasms that sometimes accompany death. The third drug stops the heart and causes severe burning sensations. The most significant problem with this protocol is that because the second drug paralyzes the inmate and prevents him from reacting, there is no way to know whether he feels pain from the third and lethal drug.

Those challenging the three-drug method of execution argued that human error and poor monitoring procedures increased the chances that the process would produce “unnecessary risk of pain and suffering” and violate the Eighth Amendment’s prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment.

Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr., in the case’s main opinion, concluded that “efforts to implement capital punishment must certainly comply with the Eighth Amendment, but what that Amendment prohibits is wanton exposure to ‘objectively intolerable risk,’ not simply the possibility of pain.” The chief justice and six others concluded that there was no evidence in the record that Kentucky’s administration of lethal injection created significantly increased risk.

The record does, however, show that other states take more precautions than does Kentucky. Those administering lethal injections in Florida, for example, pause for a few minutes after injecting the anesthetic to test whether the inmate is unconscious and unable to feel pain before they inject the paralyzing drug.

In our view, states should not be in the business of killing anyone. But as long as they are, all states should adopt such precautions. And they should consider eliminating the second and third drugs, instead relying on an overdose of the barbiturate anesthetic to bring as painless a death as possible.

Chief Justice Roberts suggested that such a discussion in the political arena would be healthy and natural: “(O)ur approval of a particular method in the past has not precluded legislatures from taking the steps they deem appropriate, in light of new developments, to ensure humane capital punishment.”

(c) 2008, The Washington Post



Where have all the heroes gone?

As I think about what I should discuss today, my first reaction is to start criticizing all the inactions about the problems we are facing. But that would not help the situation we find ourselves in. Everybody is already hurling criticism. Instead, let’s look at the problems in a different manner.

Picture all of us in a large boat drifting aimlessly in the ocean. Suddenly someone notices a small leak with water slowly coming in. He turns to all of us and says: “Hey, have you noticed the leak in the boat?” “Yes,” the person next to him replies, “but the hole is small and the water is only very little.” So everyone goes back to their personal matters and forgets the hole.

Later another person stands up and says, “Guess what, the leak is getting bigger and I think the water is higher. Shouldn’t we do something about it?” “No, it’s only a few inches deep. It will stop shortly.” Soon another stands up: “Hey, let’s form a committee and discuss this leak. If we don’t, we may have a bigger problem later.” “Okay, good idea. Let’s see, do we have a budget? How long will it take to form a committee and who should be on it?”

By now the water is knee deep and the boat is getting a bit unstable with all the water in it. No one dares to move for fear of rocking the boat. We slowly turn to a group of men huddled in a corner talking among themselves. Aren’t these the men we elected several months ago to steer us out of this very problem?

As we glance at this group, we notice that none of them is excited about the leak, but each is calmly discussing the problem within his own little clique. Meanwhile the water is rising higher and higher.

You and I, the general public, begin to realize that we need help quickly. Many of us are losing jobs. Our income is getting smaller. Prices are skyrocketing. In many ways our island is sinking. Yet, we seem paralyzed with inaction. We stare more intently at this group of men. What is happening? Why aren’t they doing something? Why can’t they sit down and reach an agreement on some sort of unified action? What are they talking and talking about?

Where are our heroes? Didn’t we elect them to help us? They have the power. Where is their will and determination? I realize that in a democratic system, we all get to put in our two cents, though what we contribute is sometimes not worth two cents. I could also go into a lecture about the qualities that a politician or a statesman should possess. But unless the hero stands up and accepts the challenge and risks associated with the task, the discussion would be futile.

I really don’t believe we don’t know how to solve our problems. We are intelligent, but we seem to have a naïve understanding about how business is done. When an investor comes in, he studies what he is going to invest in, but most of all, he calculates how much of a risk does he have to take to recover at least his principal.

Therefore when we seek an investor to operate our government utility, the investor must know how and by when he will get his money back plus a profit. It seems strange to me that many people in the legislature seem to feel that every time we put out a bid, the investor will rip us off. How naïve!

You and I can do little except protest and complain because the real power for change lies in our elected leaders’ hands. It is they who can push the buttons to make changes. We talk about electing better leaders but when election time comes, we vote the same people in again and again. And the

ANTHONY PELLEGRINO

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is the former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



irony is that the more times the same people are reelected, they feel that they are doing a great job. So the sad cycle goes round and round.

Remember the story of Alexander the Great when he was faced with an insoluble problem. In 333 B.C. as Alexander the Great was leading his armies across Asia he reached the city of Gordium in Phryia. There he was shown the chariot of the ancient founder of the city. Its pole was lashed to the yoke by means of an intricate knot. According to tradition, this knot was to be untied only by the future conqueror of Asia. Many brave men had tried and all had failed.

Legend has it that Alexander looked at the knot, drew his sword and sliced through the knot with a single stroke. And as was predicated, shortly afterwards, Asia was united for the first time under his rule. He could have done as all the others had before him and failed. But he took a fresh approach and that made all the difference in his career. What if he had followed the thinking of the herd?

One of my favorite heroes is the late Mayor Frank Fasi of Honolulu. He served as mayor for 22 years during which time that city became one of the most advanced places both for tourists and citizens. I was fortunate to live in Honolulu during his time of office and met him many times while serving on the Honolulu Chamber of Commerce. He was called a “firebrand,” “trailblazer,” “maverick.” He invented and built the Satellite City Hall. In the Capitol district he bulldozed massive parking structures near the Hawaii State Capitol, Iolani Palace, and the Kawaiaha’a Church to create massive large parcels of green space know as the Honolulu Civic Center.

My favorite account of him is when the City Council and others opposed him because he wanted to clear the massive parking structures in the area I mentioned above. Finally, totally frustrated by their stonewalling, one early morning he brought in about a half dozen bulldozers and leveled the site before dawn. When the City Council and his other opponents came to work that morning, they were appalled at what they saw. Here was the ground leveled ready for planting grass and trees.

Today when you visit that area in Honolulu you will appreciate what he did as have ever since the citizens of Honolulu. What if he had been afraid of the risks? Was he serving himself or the betterment of the people? Mayor Fasi battled an impacted establishment. He was an arrogant gutfighter who shot from the lips and to hell with the consequences.

Where is the man who studies the problem—decides on a solution—calculates the risk—then plunges in and solves the problem? That is why we call him a hero. If it weren’t for his extraordinary action, he would just be a member of the herd quietly chewing his cud trying not to make waves.

Excuse me, I must go and seek our hero. I know he waits and will come forth and do the right thing. You come too and help look for him. If he knows we need him he will come out and be our champion. Hero, where are you?

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A winner the day you were born

Editor's Note: The following is the text of the closing remarks delivered by the author at the graduation of the Intermediate English Class, Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, Philippine Consulate General, Saipan.

In a recent book by Sionil F. Jose, *Why are we Poor?*, a collection of short articles gleaned from his newspaper column, he claims that we are poor materially not because of the paucity of resources, nor the absence of entrepreneurial talents, but because of our failure to broaden the ownership base of our land stewardship. While we might be materially poor, he added, the more important crisis is one of the spirit.

I had recently traveled to Manila, Cebu, and Northern Leyte, and it is clear that our resources are abundant, and the native talent overflowing with creativity. Yet, lurking behind the evident malnourishment of the body in not a few of our compatriots, are also the look of anger of the young and the stare of despair in the eyes of those who have the capacity to improve their condition but are hampered by the social malaise, nay, the moral contradiction of 85 percent of the resources being in the hands of 15 percent of the population, with the gap still getting wider everyday.

Many clamor for another political revolution. We might also look deeper to the contradiction of the battered spirit.

In learning English during our time together, I had followed the contemporary dictum that the purpose of education is for the teacher to facilitate the enablement of students to discover what they already know. We have all grown in settings where we nurse best the sentiments of our misfortune. Our songs have lines like, "Ako'y pobrang alindahaw," or, "I was poorly born on the top of the mountain." We are apologetic with our "My Nipa hut is very small," and our soap operas strums the hamstrings of our broken hearts and shattered desires. During public gatherings, we reserve the front row for the favored few, and cower at the back to be unobtrusive and incognito.

Letters to the Editor

Limit showings at multiplex on weekends

Closure of our theater multiplex leaves a huge void in the arts and entertainment options here in the CNMI. It would seem quite easy to become profitable by limiting showings to weekends only, or even to provide only two or three movies per week. Condense the customers into fewer options, shut off the air-con when and where

not used, and go with part time employees. What business could possibly be more adaptable?

Dr. Dean Reedstrom
Saipan

Unifying the CNMI guest workers

Leaders representing various ethnic and political organizations as well as some notable activists met recently. The meeting was held to discuss the plans to form a coalition of CNMI guest workers. An interim set of officers is now in place to spearhead the preparation of the first general assembly which is calendared on May 4, 2008. Venue will be announced later. Membership is limited to guest workers only. Some of the issues that the coalition will work on are the immediate scrapping of PL 15-108, granting of citizenship to qualified guest workers, and guest workers' representation on the formulation of the implementing regulations among other things.

There will be an intensive campaign to reach out to all the

guest workers on CNMI so they can be invited to attend the first general assembly.

If you are a guest worker and have a question, please email me at irenebdi@yahoo.com. I'm sure that most of the guest workers like myself would want to see a solid and credible organization to represent us in all the issues involving us. The time is now to be united so we can provide a strong political voice for us, guest workers, in the changing times.

Irene N. Tantiado
Capital Hill, Saipan

A few points on CUC, Legislature, high cost of fuel, and Tao Tao Tano

No. 1: With regard to the CUC outage schedule. If you promulgate a schedule, stick to it. 7:43am to 10:18am, is NOT 8:00am to 10:00am. CUC, you owe me \$2 for the pancakes and sausage I tried to cook for breakfast.

No. 2: There is plenty of money. Subtract the cost of all the leased vehicles, phones, and un-audited discretionary funds for the Legislature, and we have an excess. Considering that the Legislature represents only roughly 20 percent of the entire population, maybe they should take a cut of 80 percent across the board. Or better yet, how many representatives do we really need? Considering a total population of roughly 60K, only 12,000 of whom have a say, do we really need a Legislature this size?

Where I grew up in Ohio, we have five councilmen. The city is three times the size, and has the same population.

No. 3: Mr. Torres, calling upon the oil suppliers will not change anything. If you look at Exxon/Mobil since their merger in 1998,

the profit margin has remained a steady 14 percent.

I understand your frustration, and that of the rest of your constituency. It does not change the fact, that they are not price gougers, or hoarders. I urge you, and the rest of the legislature to look inward, and find the real cause of our fuel problems.

No. 4: With regards to Gregorio Cruz and TAO TAO TANO. Although I have been a harsh critic in the past, I wish to thank you sir, for your very informative letter on the state of CUC.

We may not agree on most things, but your tour of CUC facilities, and subsequent follow ups, make my wife and I secure in the knowledge that someone on this beautiful piece of paradise is always looking out for us. My door is open to you, and all TAO TAO TANO who wish to have a meaningful dialogue about my adopted land.

Paul Harsany
Garapan



By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

We delight in being the invisible self.

Yet, as one of our medical practitioners had once told me, every human being who comes to this world is already a winner at conception. For every egg that is fertilized, there are at least, 200 million sperms vying for the chance to do the honors, and given the chances multiplied by attempts, with but one that makes it, the odds for a sperm is one-to-billions of making it. And we did.

Then consider the nine months when only two cells conspired to create one of the most complicated organisms in the biosphere, complete with metabolic process we are just beginning to understand, where the mechanics and the electronics of our bodies are of infinite wonder and sophistication. Yet, we grow up assessed for our inabilities rather than affirmed for our abilities.

In our language time together, I reminded you that you did not learn your native tongue by reading it. By the time you were three, your language proficiency was already adequate. Yet, we had forgotten how to use our ears to learn a language. Rather, we are fearful that we might mispronounce words. Worst, we have bought into the notion that because we are not schooled as others, our learning capability is less.

You will remember my story of the lady who at 28 still labored under the burden of the debilitating image of her perennial retreat into her self-story: "I am an illegitimate child," until one day, while contemplating suicide by the metro stop, she saw her reflected image and realized that she was no longer a child but a 28-year-old woman! And the term "illegitimate" is one that applied to what her parents did, or failed to do. It had nothing to do with her character, let alone her personality. Nor should it be a defining

quality of her spirit. Erasing the images of "an illegitimate child" off her self-story, she was left with but the open-ended yet to be defined statement of "I am ..."

Today, at the culmination of your training, you are reminded again that you were already a winner the day you were born. And that at every moment of your life, you hold in your hands all defining characteristics of your "I am."

Grasp then the power and the glory of your being. We shared with you tips and techniques on how to polish your English, but more importantly, you have been invited again to remember that you are one, unique, unrepeatable gift of life into human history, of whom there was never one like you before, and there will never be another one like you ever again. So, go and be it!

The freedoms of Passover

By CLAIRE SIMMONS
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—This year, the celebration of Passover coincides with the anniversary of the Jewish uprising in the Warsaw ghetto.

In 1940, Nazi forces herded more than 400,000 Jews, almost 40 percent of Warsaw's population, into an area of only 1.3 square miles; this mass of degraded humanity lived in poverty, surrounded by 10-foot-high walls topped with barbed wire. By the spring of 1943, about 40,000 ghetto residents had perished from starvation or disease.

On April 19, 1943, German troops and police stormed the ghetto to deport its surviving inhabitants to certain, monstrous death in Treblinka. Jewish fighters — thought to be 750 teenagers and youthful defenders — held off the German army for almost a month before being overrun. Fifty-six thousand men, women and children were captured; 7,000 were shot.

The heroism of the Jewish fighters is enshrined in history, but the resistance of the ordinary men, women and children who refused to despair and die anonymous deaths is less well known. Their bravery is a part of a legacy of spiritual resistance and freedom that is often misunderstood, as is the central theme of freedom in Passover itself.

The revolt in the Warsaw ghetto was not about achieving freedom from oppression. To the fighters, the outcome was clear. Their revolt was about denying their oppressors some part of their humanity and sending a message to future generations about the true meaning of freedom.

A morbid curtain of death separated the Warsaw ghetto from the rest of humanity. There was no hope of escape. Public prayer was forbidden and punished by execution. Yet prayer services were held in hundreds of clandestine locations. Secret factories fabricated matzoh. Thousands of children affirmed their freedom to be human by studying the Torah in underground schools. Secular cultural activities flourished in the hollow of this hell. Theater productions, for example, were staged in Yiddish, Russian and Hebrew.

Why did these people use their last vestige of freedom this way? Consider the example of historian Emmanuel Ringelblum. He chose to use his freedom to create an underground archive documenting the Nazi atrocities and, more important, the refusal of the Jewish people to surrender their religious, cultural and political life to Nazi tyranny. The records were buried in large milk cans and discovered after the war ended.

The actions of the men, women and children of the Warsaw ghetto to teach us that Passover is not a passive celebration of historical events or superficially similar current events. Although we recline at the Seder table, Passover is not an exercise in laissez faire, do-your-own-thing libertarianism. We are not celebrating the freedom to be left alone.

We celebrate the freedom to repair the world, to light a candle for posterity, to continue to perform the many small prosaic acts of solidarity and sacrifice — for friend and stranger alike — in the shadow of totalitarianism and under circumstances calculated to make us think these acts are meaningless.






According to Jewish tradition, the prophet Elijah was a brave man who waged a struggle to deliver freedom from oppression. On Passover, we open the door of our home to Elijah and his promise of redemption from tyranny. It is a victory that armed freedom fighters can secure but not keep. The true meaning of Passover, as those in the Warsaw ghetto understood, is the freedom to engage the world, to fulfill our responsibilities as citizens, and to reject the seductions of spiritual and political retreat. As the martyrs of the Warsaw ghetto knew all too well, the work of Elijah must inevitably be our own.

The writer, a historian, was chairwoman of the Jewish History Department at Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School in Rockville, Md. She runs a history Web site at www.jewishhistorystudytours.com.

Sattelite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

| TODAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY |
|---|---|---|--|---|
|  |  |  |  |  |
| Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. | Partly cloudy with isolated showers. |
| ▲82° ▼76° | ▲83° ▼75° | ▲83° ▼75° | ▲83° ▼76° | ▲83° ▼76° |

Micronesia

| | | |
|---------------|---------------|---------|
| Guam and Rota | Cloudy | ▲85 ▼75 |
| Palau | Partly Sunny | ▲88 ▼78 |
| Yap | Cloudy | ▲87 ▼77 |
| Chuuk | Thunderstorms | ▲87 ▼78 |
| Pohnpei | Thunderstorms | ▲84 ▼73 |
| Kosrae | Cloudy | ▲89 ▼76 |
| Majuro | Thunderstorms | ▲82 ▼74 |

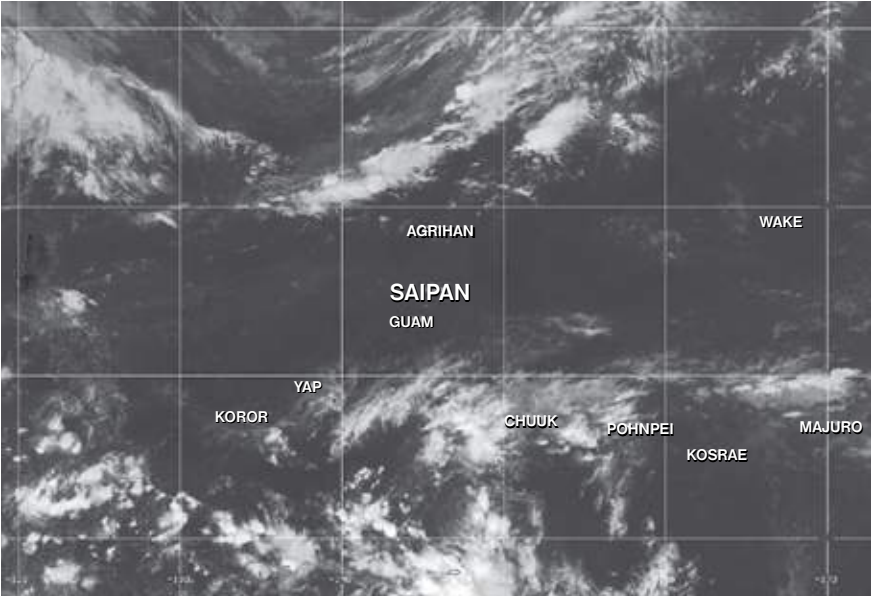
Around The Globe

| | | |
|----------------|---------------|---------|
| Auckland | Mostly Sunny | ▲61 ▼53 |
| Beijing | Showers | ▲63 ▼52 |
| Hong Kong | Mostly Cloudy | ▲84 ▼79 |
| Honolulu | Cloudy | ▲80 ▼71 |
| London | Cloudy | ▲61 ▼49 |
| Los Angeles | Partly Sunny | ▲70 ▼52 |
| Manila | Cloudy | ▲92 ▼77 |
| Melbourne | Mostly Sunny | ▲70 ▼56 |
| Miami | Cloudy | ▲85 ▼68 |
| New York | Mostly Cloudy | ▲58 ▼58 |
| Osaka | Cloudy | ▲66 ▼51 |
| Paris | Showers | ▲65 ▼46 |
| Pusan | Partly Sunny | ▲67 ▼53 |
| Rome | Cloudy | ▲66 ▼49 |
| Salem | Showers | ▲50 ▼34 |
| San Francisco | Partly Sunny | ▲62 ▼49 |
| Seoul | Sunny | ▲77 ▼55 |
| Tokyo | Cloudy | ▲61 ▼51 |
| Washington, DC | Rain | ▲59 ▼53 |

Tides

| Saipan Harbor | | |
|---------------|------------|----------|
| 2:18AM Today | Low Tide: | 1.0 Feet |
| 7:29AM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |
| 2:35PM Today | Low Tide: | 0.1 Feet |
| 9:14PM Today | High Tide: | 1.8 Feet |

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, SUNDAY, APRIL 20, 2008
Western North Pacific between Equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A weak cold front extends southwestward from 25N145E to 20N137E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are found within 75 miles of the front. A near equatorial trough south of Koror runs from 3N130E to a weak circulation at EQ145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the trough are occurring well southwest of Chuuk or south of a line that stretches from 5N140E to 5N145E. A surface trough near Chuuk State runs from 11N150E to the aforementioned circulation centered near EQ145E. Converging trade-winds near and east of the trough are generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms within 125 miles of a line extending from EQ148E to 8N154E. Trade-wind convergence is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms east of a line that extends from 4N176E to 8N178E.

Sunrise/Sunset

| | | |
|-----------|--------|--------|
| Today | 5:59AM | 6:32PM |
| Tuesday | 5:59AM | 6:33PM |
| Wednesday | 5:58AM | 6:33PM |
| Thursday | 5:57AM | 6:33PM |
| Friday | 5:57AM | 6:33PM |

Moonrise/Moonset

| | | |
|-----------|---------|--------|
| Today | 7:13PM | 6:06AM |
| Tuesday | 8:05PM | 6:46AM |
| Wednesday | 8:57AM | 7:29PM |
| Thursday | 9:50PM | 8:16AM |
| Friday | 10:41PM | 9:07AM |

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 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF APRIL 8, 2008

| DEPARTURES | ARRIVALS |
|--|--|
| Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7 | Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6 |
| Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily | Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily |
| Saipan-Narita NW 078 8:40am 2:00pm Daily via Nagoya NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily | Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:50pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:25am+1 Daily via Nagoya |
| Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:10pm Daily | Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily |
| Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:40am 11:25am Daily | Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:25am+1 Daily |
| Saipan-Manila CO 895 4:45pm 6:35pm 6 CO 895 6:45pm 8:35pm 3 | Manila-Saipan CO 890 9:15am 2:55pm 6 CO 890 11:45am 5:35pm 3 |
| Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7 | Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 |
| Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7 | Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7 |
| Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7 | Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:15pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7 |
| Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6 | Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5 |
| Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5 | Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5 |
| Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6 | Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 |

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

| Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency | Airline | ETD | ETA | Frequency |
|----------------------|---------|---------|-----------|--|---------|---------|-----------|
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 113 | 11:40am | 11:50am | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:00am | 7:30am | Daily | FRE 115 | 1:00pm | 1:10pm | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 117 | 2:30pm | 2:40pm | Daily |
| FRE 100 | 7:50am | 8:20am | Daily | FRE 119 | 4:00pm | 4:10pm | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 121 | 4:40pm | 4:50pm | Daily |
| FRE 200 | 9:00am | 9:30am | Daily | FRE 123 * | 5:40pm | 5:50pm | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 125 * | 6:00pm | 6:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 200 | 9:50am | 10:15am | Daily | Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam** | | | |
| Guam-Rota | | | | FRE 102 | 7:05am | 7:15am | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 4:00pm | 4:30pm | Daily | FRE 104 | 7:50am | 8:00am | Daily |
| Rota-Saipan | | | | FRE 106** | 8:20am | 8:30am | Daily |
| FRE 300 | 4:50pm | 5:25pm | Daily | FRE 108** | 9:00am | 9:10am | Daily |
| Saipan-Rota | | | | FRE 110 | 10:00am | 10:10am | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 6:00pm | 6:30pm | Daily | FRE 112 | 11:05am | 11:15am | Daily |
| Rota-Guam | | | | FRE 114 | 12:00pm | 12:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 400 | 6:45pm | 7:15pm | Daily | FRE 116 | 1:30pm | 1:40pm | Daily |
| Saipan-Tinian | | | | FRE 118 | 2:50pm | 3:00pm | Daily |
| FRE 101 | 6:45am | 6:55am | Daily | FRE 120** | 4:20pm | 4:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 103 | 7:30am | 7:40am | Daily | FRE 122** | 5:00pm | 5:10pm | Daily |
| FRE 105 | 8:00am | 8:10am | Daily | FRE 124 | 6:05pm | 6:15pm | Daily |
| FRE 107 | 8:40am | 8:50am | Daily | FRE 126 | 6:20pm | 6:30pm | Daily |
| FRE 109* | 9:10am | 9:20am | Daily | | | | |
| FRE 111* | 10:45am | 10:55am | Daily | | | | |



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com



**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING**

Second Floor Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



**NOTICE OF HEARINGS
PENDING DENIAL APPEALS
FOR APRIL 24, 2008; MAY 01, 2008; AND MAY 02, 2008**

Notice is hereby given to the persons listed below to appear at the Hearing Office, Department of Labor, Second Floor, Afetña Square Building, San Antonio, on the date and at the time listed below. Please bring any documentation necessary to resolve the issues that led to the denial of your permit application. If you fail to appear or fail to bring required documentation, the appeal may be dismissed and an administrative order may be entered against you. Any employee who intends to request permission to transfer to a new employer must appear at the hearing to make that request; failure to appear may result in immediate denial of transfer relief.

| Case No. | Employee | Employer | Hearing Date | Time |
|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| DC 08-326 | Wen, Huazi | A L L Corporation | May 1, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-110 | Farro, Ferdinand R. | Ada, Rosalinda G. | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-111 | Farro, Rocelia G. | Ada, Rosalinda G. | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-285 | Muel, Elbert G. | Ahn Corporation | May 2, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-168 | Ibanez, Michael Dlc. | Alfante, Yolanda O. | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-387 | Li, Yuanfu | An Da International Corp. | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-295 | Zhi, Liping | Angel Development Ent., Inc. | May 2, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-421 | Han, Juyeon | B & J Corporation | May 1, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-280 | Samar, Blasito F. | Bisnes Mami Saipan Inc. | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-247 | Blanco, Eden A. | Calma Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-379 | Bautista, Nida L. | Camacho, Joyce R. | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-328 | Lin, Feiqiong | Cangco, Pascual T. | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-336 | Abaygar, Ronald N. | Castro, Alexander | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-329 | Domalanta, Lucena M. | Castro, Jesus M. | May 2, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-297 | Xu, Guorong | Commonwealth Pac Int'l. Inc. | May 2, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-375 | Cruz, Josephine F. | Cruz, Thelma M. | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-276 | Tong, Lianfang | Cui Rong Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-271 | Diana, Domingo C. | Dailey, Myrna | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-283 | Gurung, Baba | Dasan Corporation | May 2, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-357 | Song, Yuhui | Demapan, Francisco Dlg. | May 1, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-376 | Li, Renwei | Double Lee Corp. | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-241 | Wu, Zhuohao | Drew, Dolores R. | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-330 | Veloria, Rebecca N. | Encarnacion, Jaclyn S. | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-322 | Payopay, Olivia B. | EQ Construction Corp. | May 2, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-210 | Lee, Eun Kyung | Evertrust Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-335 | Pineda, Maurice A. | Expressions, Inc. | May 1, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-358 | Perez, Elizabeth Dlc. | Food Express Co. | May 1, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-273 | Huang, Yanfei | Fu Mei Development Corp. | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-360 | Ducut, Corazon M. | Isa Ent., Inc. | May 1, 2008 | 2:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-200 | Gutierrez, Rachel R. | J.T.M. Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-075 | Tengco, Ricardo S. | J.T.M. Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-251 | Garillo, Ernesto V. | Jap Professional Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-272 | Jin, Fengyue | Jin, Ming Yue | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-370 | Gabiana, Dioscora P. | Joon Corporation | May 1, 2008 | 2:00 p.m. |

| Case No. | Employee | Employer | Hearing Date | Time |
|-----------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|------------|
| DC 08-307 | Yu, Hailan | LED Saipan, Inc. | May 2, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-157 | Deocares, Imelda E. | Leong, Lourdes B. | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-277 | Liu, Jun | Liao Ti Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-398 | Wu, Hongde | Nakatsukasa, Ester | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-279 | Bartolo, Arthur I. | Ortizo, Nero S. | May 2, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-274 | Hebres, Jennifer H. | Ortizo, Nero S. | May 2, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-278 | Redimo, Ariel N. | Ortizo, Nero S. | May 2, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-401 | Paracale, Valentin L. | Pamintuan, Noreta V. | April 24, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-166 | Paracale, Rosal R. | Paracale, Stanley Val R. | May 2, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-286 | Hubalde, Arvin I. | PBL Corporation | May 1, 2008 | 2:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-235 | Wang, Xingjing | Peace Asia Pacific Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-300 | Tenorio, Teresita P. | Pico, Fortunato | May 1, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-104 | Hirata, Aura A. | Quitugua, Asuncion | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-400 | Nartea, Reynaldo S. | RGC Corporation | May 2, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-369 | Arellano, Ma. Loreta M. | Saipan Sea Ventures Inc. | May 1, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-171 | Perez, Miguel C. | Santos, Gloria P. | May 2, 2008 | 2:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-356 | Montano, Juanito, Jr. C. | Sara Enterprises Inc. | May 1, 2008 | 2:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-399 | Songcuan, Ronald A. | SBR Enterprises, Inc. | May 2, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-333 | Formalejo, Dennis B. | SSFM International Inc. | May 1, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-206 | Dedel, Daniel Jr. M. | Success Int'l. Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-320 | Cortez, Emyln A. | Tababa, Dionesio | May 1, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-317 | Dacuno, Irene Y. | Tababa, Dionesio | May 1, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-318 | Nagpacan, Edwin G. | Tababa, Dionesio | May 1, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-319 | Catbagan, Victoria L. | Tababa, Dionesio M. Jr. | May 1, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-198 | Asedillo, Marlon A. | Tae Woo Corporation | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-378 | Cai, Zhongming | Tenorio, Esteven | May 1, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-327 | San Agustin, Rosalina M. | Torres, Erlinda C. | May 2, 2008 | 2:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-397 | Rufila, Jessette L. | Venus, Zietzke | May 1, 2008 | 2:00 p.m. |
| DC 08-252 | Salvador, Annie A. | Villafuerte, Meliton P. | April 24, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-310 | Fu, Jiaolong | Wang's Corporation | May 2, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-334 | Xu, Xiaofei | Xing Wang Development Corp. | May 1, 2008 | 9:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-301 | Hu, Chong Juan | Yong Fu Corporation | May 2, 2008 | 10:00 a.m. |
| DC 08-384 | Gu, Junming | Yuki American Corporation | May 1, 2008 | 1:00 p.m. |



Saipan Tribune, the CNMI's first daily newspaper, is looking for fresh talent to join our team.

REPORTER

- At least two years' experience writing for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must know how to write hard news, features, and business stories;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, analytical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Computer literate and with driver's license.

SPORTS REPORTER

- At least two years' experience covering sports for a newspaper or magazine;
- Must have competent grasp of grammar, punctuation, spelling, and syntax;
- College graduate (Journalism, Communication, Creative Writing, English majors a plus)
- Must be methodical, detail-oriented, and can work fast within strict deadlines;
- Must be willing to put in flexible work hours;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, aggressive, and a team player;
- Computer literate and with driver's license;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be passionate about sports.

ART DIRECTOR

- At least five years' experience in the publishing industry or related field;
- Must have at least two years' supervisory experience in the field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have extensive knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

GRAPHIC ARTIST

- At least three years' experience in the publishing business or related field;
- High proficiency in Adobe CS applications (InDesign, Illustrator, and Photoshop); knowledge of other applications for print and web a plus;
- Deep familiarity with Mac environment; knowledge in PC is a plus;
- College graduate (Fine Arts, Graphic Design or related course);
- Must have basic knowledge in digital pre-press production and printing;
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be creative, resourceful, and can work fast.

EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

- At least high school graduate;
- Typing speed of at least 40 words per minute
- Must have extensive experience using Microsoft Office applications (Word, Excel, PowerPoint);
- Must be familiar with Mac computers (knowledge in PC is a plus);
- Must be willing to work on holidays, weekends;
- Must be a fast learner, self-starter, and a team player.

If you think you have what it takes to be part of this dynamic team, submit your most recent résumé and portfolio to the *Saipan Tribune*, located on the second floor of the CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan. Or e-mail it to editor@saipantribune.com. On-island hires preferred.

Hafa Adail
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Business

Dollar's plunge becoming lynchpin in 1Q earnings

NEW YORK (AP)—The dollar's plunge might be preventing Americans from taking that European vacation this summer, but it could be the very thing saving their 401(k)s from buckling.

Some of the nation's biggest corporate powerhouses—across all industries—have used the greenback's retrenchment to shield themselves from slumping profit margins. Declines against world currencies make U.S. products look cheap overseas, and translate into big returns when sales are converted back into dollars.

Take Coca-Cola Inc. for example. Buying a can of Coke cost \$1 in the United States, but the equivalent of about \$2 in the U.K.—one reason the beverage giant was able to sail past Wall Street profit projections earlier this week.

And they aren't alone: International Business Machines Corp., Google Inc., Caterpillar Inc., and eBay Inc. all rallied this week because of strong overseas profits.

"If you look at some of the companies that had good quarters, they're doing half or more business abroad," said Phil Orlando, chief equity market strategist at Federated Investors. "The weakness in the dollar is a significant benefit in currency translation, and for those companies that are developing products that will create a boost for export activity."

Orlando points out that economic growth in the U.S. will slow to about 1 percent during 2008—down from about a 4 percent last year. Economists believe growth is now at its worst rate since the 2001 recession, and

don't expect things to pick up until the last half of the year.

By comparison, countries in Europe and along the Pacific Rim are showing robust growth. And many companies, like IBM, have even adjusted their strategy to focus more of the business in areas like China and Brazil to take advantage of the situation.

The dollar is down about 8 percent against the 15-nation euro, and has touched lows against the yen and Great British Pound. One reason for the slide is that the Federal Reserve continues to lower interest rates—and that makes the dollar less valuable.

Atlanta-based Coca-Cola reported said revenue jumped 21 percent to \$7.38 billion during the first quarter. It attributed 9 percent of the increase coming from the dollar's decline against other currencies.

Housing-credit woes spur calls for more federal regulation

WASHINGTON (AP)—A heavier federal hand is reaching into American life as politicians in both parties demand an overhaul of government financial regulation and more protection for homeowners in the face of mortgage woes and a weakening economy.

This rush to regulate also was apparent in the recent crackdown on the airlines, resulting in thousands of grounded flights for safety inspections as the government beefs up its enforcement of existing laws. There have been mounting proposals for tougher government rules to address climate change. High corporate salaries have come

under attack on Capitol Hill, as have oil industry profits and rising food costs.

Advocates of more aggressive government action see it as a boon to ordinary Americans struggling in hard economic times. But those favoring a lighter federal touch worry that the pendulum will swing too far toward regulation, stifling economic growth and efficiency.

"There's always that danger," said Jack Kemp, former New York congressman, housing secretary in the first Bush administration and 1996 Republican vice presidential nominee. "We do have to be concerned about over regulation."

But even the conservative

Kemp, now an economic adviser to John McCain, has come down on the side of more federal involvement to help struggling homeowners. He argues for a plan—being advanced by the GOP presidential candidate—to help homeowners under water on their mortgages to restructure their loans. Lenders would have to write off part of the principal and, in exchange, the new loan would be backed by the federal government through the Federal Housing Administration. Designed to help 200,000 to 400,000 people, it is similar, if less ambitious, to plans supported by Democratic candidates Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton.

UAW chief unhappy with pace of American Axle talks

HAMBURG TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP)—The president of the United Auto Workers says he is optimistic that the union can settle several contracts disputes at General Motors Corp. factories.

But Ron Gettelfinger wasn't as hopeful Saturday when it came to an eight-week strike at parts maker American Axle and Manufacturing Holdings Inc.

Gettelfinger told reporters before speaking to a Detroit-area Democratic Party dinner that American Axle isn't negotiating much.

About 3,600 workers at five American Axle plants have been on strike since Feb. 26.

"I would hope we could resolve Axle, but we cannot negotiate an agreement with ourselves," he said before a speech

to Livingston County Democrats. "It seems like it's all give on our side."

The UAW also is on strike at a GM plant near Lansing that makes hot-selling crossover vehicles, and it has threatened to strike Tuesday at a plant in Kansas City, Kan., that builds the popular new Chevrolet Malibu sedan.

Both plants have unresolved local contracts that govern overtime, assembly line speed, staffing and other issues not covered by the national contract signed last year.

"I'm hopeful we can get GM resolved," Gettelfinger said.

Negotiations were continuing through the weekend at the GM plants but recessed Saturday until next week at American Axle. The parts supplier makes axles,

stabilizer bars, drive shafts and other components. GM makes up 80 percent of its business.

The American Axle strike has hampered production at about 30 GM factories in the U.S. and Canada, mainly those that make components for and assemble pickup trucks and large sport utility vehicles.

Gettelfinger said in his speech that American Axle Chairman and CEO Richard Dauch made \$258 million from 1997 through 2007 but wants workers to work for nothing.

"They use the word competitive until they wear it out, but are they competitive with their own salaries?" he asked.

American Axle has said in the past that Dauch took risks to start the company at some former GM facilities.

Nation

Rivals Clinton and Obama press for advantage ahead of pivotal primary

WEST CHESTER, Pa. (AP)—Barack Obama cast his Democratic presidential rival Saturday as a game-player who uses “slash and burn” tactics and will say whatever people want to hear, a sharp jab at her character in the final chapter of the pivotal Pennsylvania primary campaign.

Hillary Rodham Clinton implored voters to look beyond “whoop-dee-do” speechmaking and take a hard look at who’s got the know-how to deal with the nation’s burdens.

“I want everyone thinking,” she declared, as if to suggest those backing Obama are not. Her implication was clear: She’s substance, he’s flash.

Altogether, the campaign for Tuesday’s contest was dissolving into the sort of acrimony that makes party leaders long for the finish line, before the nominee is damaged in the fall. Obama’s criticisms were direct, while Clinton’s were oblique but unmistakable. At various times in the protracted contest, it’s been the other way around.

He pressed the case against her at stop-after-stop, blunt words set against the bucolic backdrop of his train ride through the Pennsylvania countryside. For her part, Clinton struck back at

a new Obama ad that criticizes her health care plan, telling a rally in York: “Instead of attacking the problem, he chooses to attack my solution.”

Otherwise she stuck to her stump speech, something of a role reversal in a contest that has seen the New York senator going after her opponent while he has stayed measured.

The primary Tuesday follows a monthlong hiatus in voting.

Party officials known as superdelegates continued drifting toward Obama in that interim, increasing his edge in the race despite his series of gaffes, and that trend is bound to accelerate if he performs strongly Tuesday. Clinton is hoping a decisive win will put a stop to that. Polls have suggested she has a consistent if shrinking lead.

The New York senator spoke under a baking sun outside West Chester’s 175-year-old fire house, striking a somber note about problems at home and abroad as she described the stakes for voters Tuesday. She asked them to think about the looming challenge of China, the restive Middle East, the trade imbalance and the debt burden.

“I don’t want to just show up and give one of those whoop-

dee-do speeches and get everybody whipped up,” she said. “I want everyone thinking.”

As she looked to exploit questions about his gravitas, Obama played on poll findings indicating unease with her veracity, and did so head on, with words that could easily slip into a Republican campaign ad should Clinton become the Democratic contender against GOP candidate John McCain.

In Wynnewood, several thousand supporters lined the tracks for the first stop on his daylong whistle-stop tour aboard a royal blue train car that pulled out of Philadelphia in late morning.

“I may not be perfect but I will always tell you what I think, and I will always tell you where I stand,” he told the crowd. Then he spoke of his rival.

“She’s taken different positions at different times on issues as fundamental as trade, or even the war, to suit the politics of the moment. And when she gets caught at it, the notion is, well, you know what, that’s just politics. That’s how it works in Washington. You can say one thing here and say another thing there.”

He amplified the point at a later stop, in Paoli.



Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
“Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members”

INVITATION FOR BID IFB NO. RF08-052

General Maintenance Repairs

OPENING DATE:

April 21, 2008

CLOSING DATE:

May 21, 2008

The Board of Trustees, Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (Fund), is soliciting sealed bids from private companies to conduct general maintenance repairs on the Fund building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. To receive the IFB packet, e-mail, fax, or mail your request to the following:

Mark A. Aguon, Administrator

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

P.O. Box 501247 CK

Saipan, MP 96950-1247

Fax: 670/664-8080

E-mail: administrator01@nmiretirement.com

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is in the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Public Health
Division of Public Health**



ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program is pleased to announce that they are now accepting applications for Rota Vendors only. All interested vendors can pick up an application at the main office located at the upper Navy Hill Building # N-25, starting April 15, 2008 through April 30, 2008 (Mon. to Fri.) or download an application online by visiting our website at cnmiwic.org. The Vendor Selection Criteria is attached to the applications and can also be viewed on line at www.cnmiwic.org.

All applications must be submitted to the CNMI WIC Program office no later than 4:00 p.m., April 30, 2008. Prospective applicants are encouraged to carefully read through the information provided to ensure minimum qualifications and requirements are met.

Inquiries and technical questions may be directed to the Vendor Management Coordinator, Fabian M. Ulloa at (670) 664-4071, by email at fabianu.cnmiwic@gmail.com or by facsimile at (670) 664-4069.

USDA is an Equal Opportunity Provider and Employer.

Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez
Secretary of the Department of Public Health

Josephine K. Tudela
CNMI WIC Program, Director



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation



ADDENDUM NO.4 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-07-015

Grid Supply Renewable Electricity Generation Projects for CNMI

Date: Thursday, April 17, 2008

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is hereby notifying all interested proposers/ firms / agencies of the following revisions:

1. EXPRESSION OF INTEREST – CANCELLED.

CUC has withdrawn this requirement to allow for wider participation in the interest of the CUC consumers and the CNMI community and to obtain the most responsive and competitive proposals.

2. QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS FROM PROPOSERS - Time Extended to Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

3. FINAL RESPONSE TO ALL QUESTIONS/CLARIFICATIONS BY CUC – By Tuesday, May 6, 2008.

4. PROPOSAL SUBMISSION BY PROPOSERS – EXTENDED. One (1) original and seven (7) copies to be submitted by Friday, May 16, 2008 no later than 3:00 p.m. (Saipan Time) in a sealed envelope and addressed to the CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, Manuel B. Sablan, CUC Procurement Division, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, Tel. 1 (670) 235 7025 – 7032 and Fax. 1 (670) 235 5138. For proposers who are based outside of CNMI, the submission shall be postmarked on the same date as the closing day for submission of the proposals and received within 7 working days (no later than May 28, 2008).

ANTHONY C. GUERRERO
Executive Director

Asia

Bhutto widower: Pakistan coalition can't yet oust Musharraf

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistan’s new government is avoiding a showdown with President Pervez Musharraf because it lacks the support needed to impeach him, the head of the ruling coalition’s leading party said in remarks released Saturday.

But Asif Ali Zardari, the widower of slain former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, did not rule out confronting the unpopular former army strongman if the new government manages to muster the necessary two-thirds parliament majority in the future.

“The parliament and the president have a formal relationship. For the time being, we are not breaking up that status quo. We

don’t have that power,” Zardari told the British Broadcasting Corp.’s Urdu language service.

“For the sake of the country, we don’t want confrontation. But this doesn’t mean we accept him (Musharraf). If we get the two-thirds majority, we will think about making him accountable,” he said.

Zardari took over Bhutto’s party after she was assassinated in December and led it to victory in February’s parliament elections. It leads a new coalition government that has vowed to trim Musharraf’s powers and revise his U.S.-backed counterterrorism policies.

Musharraf seized power in a military coup in 1999 and became a key ally in Washing-

ton’s war on terror.

But his authority has waned since he retired as army chief last year and the defeat of his political allies in the parliamentary elections.

The new government plans to strip Musharraf of the power to dissolve parliament and has pledged to reinstate Supreme Court judges purged when Musharraf imposed emergency rule in November to stop legal challenges to him continuing for another five years as president.

Former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who leads the second-largest party in the four-party ruling coalition, is pushing hard for Musharraf to quit. Sharif was ejected from office and exiled in the 1999 coup.

Anwar’s party to start paper in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The Malaysian government plans to give opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim’s political party a permit to start its own newspaper as part of reforms to allow more press freedom, according to news reports Sunday.

The Star daily quoted Home Minister Syed Hamid Albar as saying there was no reason the People’s Justice Party should not have its own newspaper when other political parties do.

“I’ve just approved the (People’s Justice Party) newspaper and I asked my officers ‘why not.’ I am open about it,” he was quoted as saying.

Syed Hamid’s office was

closed for the weekend and could not be reached to confirm the report. Anwar’s party spokesman also could not immediately be reached for comment.

The announcement came days after the government suspended the license of a Tamil-language newspaper, which catered to some of Malaysia’s ethnic Indians, accusing it of fomenting racial tensions.

Media organizations in Malaysia can operate only with a government license, which needs to be renewed every year. This has resulted in self-censorship by editors who want to avoid the possibility of their license not being renewed.

Protests against French retailer Carrefour spread in China

BEIJING (AP)—Demonstrations against French supermarket chain Carrefour erupted in cities across China on Saturday, fueled by anger over the disruption of the Olympic torch relay when it went through Paris nearly two weeks ago.

Other protesters gathered outside the French Embassy and the Beijing French School.

The recent unrest in Tibet and protests during the worldwide Olympic torch relay have created a backlash of anger inside China against those viewed as supporting independence for Tibet.

The nationalist outburst comes as Chinese state media has launched a sustained attack against foreign critics of

China’s Tibet policy and on the Dalai Lama, Tibet’s spiritual leader, who Beijing blames for instigating riots last month in Tibet’s capital.

Hundreds of protesters carrying Chinese flags and pictures of the late Communist Party chairman, Mao Zedong, gathered outside a Carrefour store in Wuhan in central Hubei province Saturday.

A woman working at a store in the same building as the Carrefour estimated about 1,000 people took part in the protests, mostly youth and university students. They held banners and sang the national anthem, said the woman, who would only give her surname, Wang.

Hong Kong broadcaster

Cable TV reported several thousand protesters gathered outside the Carrefour in Hefei, in eastern China’s Anhui province. A staff member confirmed there had been a demonstration and the store had closed, but she would not provide details and hung up without providing her name.

Protests also took place at Carrefour stores in the southwestern city of Kunming, the popular tourist city Xian in northern China and the port city of Qingdao.

A woman who answered the phone at the Carrefour in Kunming said “a lot of people are still outside protesting.” She refused to give her name and more details.

Douglas F. Cushnie
P.O. Box 500949
Saipan, MP 969590
Telephone: (670) 234-6830
Facsimile: (670) 234-9723
Email: abogados@pticom.com

Attorney for Administratrix

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF) CIVIL CASE
THE ESTATE OF) NO. 08-0124-CV
)
JAMES O. TANAKA,) NOTICE TO
) CREDITORS
Deceased.)

Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Clarissa T. Bearden, Administratrix of the Estate of James O. Tanaka, deceased, to the creditors of, and all person having claims against decedent, that within sixty days after the first publication of this notice, creditors of the decedent file their claims with the necessary vouchers in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands located in Guma Husticia in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

DATED this 18th day of April, 2008.

/s/ Clarissa T. Bearden
Administratrix

Douglas F. Cushnie
P.O. Box 500949
Saipan, MP 969590
Telephone: (670) 234-6830
Facsimile: (670) 234-9723
Email: abogados@pticom.com

Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF) CIVIL CASE
THE ESTATE OF) NO. 08-0124-CV
)
JAMES O. TANAKA,) NOTICE OF
) HEARING
Deceased.)

The petition of Clarissa T. Bearden, seeking to be appointed as Administratrix to the Estate of James O. Tanaka, deceased, has been set for hearing before the Commonwealth Superior Court in the Guma Husticia at Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands at 1:30 p.m. on the 3rd day of June, 2008.

Any person who has any objection to this petition may file or her objection with the Commonwealth Superior Court at any time before the hearing, or may appear at the time set for hearing to present such objection or interest in the above-captioned matter.

DATED this 18th day of April, 2008.

BERNADITA A. SABLAN
Clerk of Court
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

THE FINANCIAL & : CIVIL
INSURANCE SERVICES : ACTION
GROUP, INC., : NO.
: 07-0053

Plaintiff, :
-v- :
JOSEPH A. ARRIOLA and :
LAURA L. ARRIOLA :
Defendants. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED
DEFENDANT, LAURA L.
ARRIOLA:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff’s Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 17th day of April, 2008:

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN : CIVIL
MARIANAS HOUSING : ACTION
CORPORATION, : NO. 07-476

Plaintiff, :
-v- :
The Estate of SOLEDAD K. :
SOMORANG, Deceased, :
and SUSAN K. SOMORANG :

Defendants. :

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED
DEFENDANT SUSAN K.
SOMORANG:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, the Plaintiff’s Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

DATED, this 18th day of April, 2008:

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198
Attorney at Law
P.O. Box 505301
First Floor, San Jose Court Bldg.
Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way
San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
TELEPHONE: (670) 234-8801
FAX: (670) 234-1251

Attorney for Plaintiff
BAE, HAK CHON

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BAE HAK CHON, : CIVIL CASE
Plaintiff, : NO. 08-0116A
v. : SUMMONS BY
CHANG, DAE SUNG, : PUBLICATION
Defendant.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT:
CHANG, DAE SUNG

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Husticia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of the Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.
/s/ Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

Dated this 17th day of April, 2008.

VICENTE T. SALAS
Law Office of Vicente T. Salas
2nd Floor, UIU Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
San Jose Village
P.O. Box 501309
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

F. MATTHEW SMITH
Law Office of F. Matthew Smith, LLC
2nd Floor, UIU Building,
Chalan Monsignor Guerrero
P.O. Box 501127
San Jose Village
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: (670) 234-7455/234-7427
Facsimile No.: (670) 234-7256

Attorneys for Plaintiff Commonwealth
Development Authority.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTH-
ERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT
AUTHORITY, : Civil Action
Plaintiff, : No. 05-0561C
-vs- : AMENDED
NOTICE OF
AUCTION
TRIPLE A, INC., :
JOSEPH A. ARRIOLA, :
and ANTHONY :
A. ARRIOLA, :
Defendants. :
The Commissioner of the Department
of Public Safety, hereinafter referred to as
auctioneer, and the Development Corporation
Division of the Commonwealth Development
Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA,
hereby give notice that all of the right, title,
and interest of the Defendants Triple A Inc.,
Joseph A. Arriola and Anthony A. Arriola in
the following described real property situated
in Rota, CNMI will be sold at an auction:
Tract 21769-3-4 (formerly part of
Tract 21769-3, which was part of
Tract 21769, also known as Lot
352 R 01, AH 72), Rota, as more
particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3005/95 the
original of which was recorded 16
February 1995 as Document No.
95-384 at Commonwealth Recorder’s
Office, Saipan;
Tract 21769-3-5 (formerly part of
Tract 21769-3, which was part of
Tract 21769, also known as Lot
352 R 01, AH 72), Rota, as more
particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 3005/95 the
original of which was recorded 16
February 1995 as Document No.
95-384 at Commonwealth Recorder’s
Office, Saipan;
The auction sale will be open to the
general public and will be held at CDA’s
Conference Room, Saipan, at 2:00 p.m., on
Friday, May 16, 2008, subject to the following
announced terms and conditions:
1. Minimum Bid. No minimum
opening bid.
2. Reserve. The auction shall be held
with reserve.
3. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer.
Consistent with the custom and usage and
applicable law of the Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands governing auc-
tions with reserve, auctioneer shall have the
following rights and duties in conducting
the auction:
a.) To withdraw the property
listed for sale in this an-
nouncement before sale or
before a bid for such property
is accepted;
b.) To adjourn the sale without
notice at any time before any
specific property is struck off,
without incurring any liability
whatsoever thereby; and
c.) To reject, on behalf of the
seller, any and all bids.
4. Bids. Tentative bids may be sub-
mitted in advance for any and all of the property
listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be
binding, except that the highest of such bids
will automatically be considered the open-
ing bid for the item. Bids may be entered in
person, in writing, or by telephone to Oscar
C. Camacho, Acting Chief Executive Officer,
Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O.
Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-
7145, Fax: 235-7147; or to F. Matthew Smith,
P.O. Box 501127, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone:
234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
5. Deposit, Payment. A deposit of ten
percent (10%) of the purchase price must be
paid on the day of the auction sale. The re-
maining balance will be due within ten (10)
days of the auction sale. All payments must
be made by cash, cashier’s check or credit
card. Failure to make payment of the remain-
ing balance within ten (10) days will result
in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent
(10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer’s
rights, title and interest in any of the afore-
mentioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and
CDA reserve the right to change any of the
terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by
announcement, written or oral, made before
the auction or at the commencement thereof,
and such change or changes, by virtue of this
clause, shall be binding on any buyer by con-
structive notice.
7. Inspection and No Warranty.
Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title
and property; contact CDA for scheduled
viewing and inspection times. The interests
of (list all) in the property are being sold
“AS IS” and without warranty, and sub-
ject to the redemption laws of the CNMI.
Failure to inspect the real property will not
constitute a ground for any claim, adjust-
ment or rescission by any buyer.
Dated this 14th day of April 2008.
/s/ CLAUDIO K. NORITA, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

World

Secretary Rice says Arabs should boost support for Iraq

SHANNON, Ireland (AP)—Iraq's Arab neighbors have few remaining excuses for withholding diplomatic and economic support for the U.S.-backed government in Baghdad, now that daily life in Iraq is less deadly and the government has demonstrated resolve against militias and outliers, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Saturday.

"At some point the Arab states need to take yes for an answer," Rice said en route to diplomatic meetings on Iraq's future. The role of Iran in Iraq and the wider Mideast is a subtext for the sessions in Bahrain and Kuwait, but Rice has ruled out holding a formal meeting with her Iranian counterpart.

The United States has tried for years to rally Arab support for a post-Saddam Iraq, both for

the boost that regional acceptance would give the fledgling democracy and as a bulwark against spreading Iranian influence in Iraq and elsewhere.

Arab diplomats say they want to foster long-term stability in Iraq five years after a U.S.-led invasion many of them opposed, but see little sign that the Shiite-led Iraq government will fully include Sunni Muslims in political power and oil wealth. Arab states also privately note that with less than 10 months left in office, the Bush administration has declining leverage both over Arab states and the Baghdad government of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki.

Meanwhile, anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr gave a "final warning" to the al-Maliki government Saturday to halt a

U.S.-Iraqi crackdown against his followers or he would declare "open war until liberation."

A full-blown uprising by al-Sadr, who led two rebellions against U.S.-led forces in 2004, could lead to a dramatic increase in violence in Iraq at a time when the Sunni extremist group al-Qaida in Iraq appears poised for new attacks after suffering severe blows last year.

Anti-American cleric al-Sadr threatens new uprising in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP)—Anti-American Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr gave a "final warning" to the government Saturday to halt a U.S.-Iraqi crackdown against his followers or he would declare "open war until liberation."

A full-blown uprising by al-Sadr, who led two rebellions against U.S.-led forces in 2004, could lead to a dramatic increase in violence in Iraq at a time when the Sunni extremist group al-Qaida in Iraq appears

poised for new attacks after suffering severe blows last year.

Al-Sadr's warning appeared on his Web site as Iraq's Shiite-dominated government claimed success in a new push against Shiite militants in the southern city of Basra. Fighting claimed 14 more lives in Sadr City, the Baghdad stronghold of al-Sadr's Mahdi Army.

Fighting in Sadr City and the crackdown in Basra are part of a government campaign against

followers of al-Sadr and Iranian-backed Shiite splinter groups that the U.S. has identified as the gravest threat to a democratic Iraq.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, also a Shiite, has ordered al-Sadr to disband the Mahdi Army, Iraq's biggest Shiite militia, or face a ban from politics.

In the statement, al-Sadr lashed back, accusing the government of selling out to the Americans and branding his followers as criminals.

Hamas suicide bombers attack Israel-Gaza crossing; 13 hurt

JERUSALEM (AP)—Hamas bombers attacked an Israeli-Gaza border crossing under the cover of fog Saturday, detonating two jeeps made to look like Israeli military vehicles and packed with hundreds of pounds of explosives.

The twin blasts, just hours before the Jewish Passover holiday, wounded 13 Israeli soldiers in what Hamas said was an attempt to break the nearly year-long blockade of the territory. Four Hamas assailants died, Israeli officials said.

Meanwhile, former U.S. President Jimmy Carter met with senior Hamas leaders in

Damascus, Syria, for a second day to hear their views, defying U.S. and Israeli warnings that doing so would grant the group legitimacy. The U.S. and Israel have labeled Hamas a terrorist organization.

An Israeli army commander said the Hamas operation was the most ambitious since Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, even though another planned attempt at the border was averted Saturday. The attack was the fifth on a crossing by Gaza militants since last week, and Hamas threatened to target the passages again.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB08-DOF/P&S-048**

"SALE OF GOVERNMENT PERSONAL PROPERTIES"

**SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 5, 2008
OPENING DATE: MAY 5, 2008**

**TIME: 11:00 A.M.
TIME: 1:00 P.M.**

Interested individuals or firms may pick-up the specifications at the Office of the Director, Procurement & Supply in Lower Base, Saipan, during regular working hours.

Bidder(s) are cautioned to inspect the property(s).

You are cautioned to bid only on those items you are prepared to pay and remove in accordance with the terms and conditions of this sale.

A bid bond of fifteen percents (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid.

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO. 2008-CDA-03-ITB**

OPENING DATE: Tuesday, April 29, 2008 • TIME: 10:00 a.m.

"OFFICE SPACE FOR CDA TINIAN BRANCH"

COPIES OF THE BID SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY SAIPAN OFFICE, GUALO RAI WAKIN'S BLDG. OR THE CDA OFFICE TINIAN AT THE KING'S BLDG. DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR BY FACSIMILE REQUEST TO 235-7147.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO U.S. CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PL15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PL15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE BID IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ OSCAR C. CAMACHO
Acting CEO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director, P&S

**Saipan World Corporation dba:
ISLAND TELECOMM. SERVICES**

P.O. Box 502273, CK Saipan MP 96950
Tel. (670) 235-6511 • Fax: (670) 235-6512
E-mail: joleeco@pticom.com

SERVICES OFFERED:

- Telephone Inside Wirings
- Re-wirings & In-house Repairs
- Computer/DSL Inside Lines
- Overhead/Underground Piping
- Building Electrical Wirings
- Meridian/Norstar, Internet Phone System Installations & Relocations
- Programming
- Trouble Shooting & Line Repairs
- CAT 5E-4Prs - \$110.00/(box-1000ft)

**If you need the services above call us
and we're ready to serve you.**

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP08-CRM-055**

**SUBMISSION DATE: MAY 13, 2008
TIME: 2:00 P.M.**

**"MATERIALS AND SUPPLIES FOR INSTALLATION OF
REEF PINS FOR DIVING MOORINGS FOR
THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE"**

COPIES OF THE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICE LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF THE MORGAN BUILDING ON BEACH ROAD, IN SAN JOSE DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS OR CAN BE RECEIVED ELECTRONICALLY BY CONTACTING THE CRMO MARINE BIOLOGIST, AT (670) 664-8303, OR BY EMAILING john.starmer@crm.gov.mp.

PREFERENCE IS AVAILABLE TO US CITIZENS OR PERMANENT RESIDENTS AS PER PUBLIC LAW 15-95 AND AS FURTHER AMENDED BY PUBLIC LAW 15-118 AND MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE PROPOSAL IF PREFERENCE IS CLAIMED.

/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER, Ph.D.
DIRECTOR, CRMO

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

**Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND**

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC, Division 9, §9910, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Timothy P. Villagomez, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission/Group Health & Life Insurance Trust Fund, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold its **Regular** meeting on **Thursday, April 24, 2008 at 9:00 a.m.**, at the NMI Retirement Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. **PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes of Meeting:
 1. March 26, 2008
- II. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**
- III. **REPORTS**
 - A. Report of the Chairman
 1. ROC No. 08-006
 - B. Report of the Administrator / Correspondence
 1. ROA No. 08-006
 - C. Report of the Comptroller
 1. Financials
 - a) NMIRF
 - b) GH/LTF
 - c) WCC
 - D. Reports of the Committees
 1. Finance & Investment Committee
 2. Operations & Personnel Committee
 3. Policies, Programs & Legislative Review Committee
 4. GH&L and WCC Committee
 - E. Reports of the Investment Director
 1. Status of Investment/Market Condition
 2. Report of Housing Loan Program
 - F. Communications
 - G. Other Matters
- IV. **LEGAL MATTERS**
 - A. Reports of the Legal Counsel
 1. Report of the Board Counsel
 - a) Lawsuit
 - b) Excepted Service Regulations
 2. Report of the In-house Counsel
 - a) Update on Administrative Appeals
 3. Report of the Hearing Officer
- V. **OLD BUSINESS**
 1. BR 08-001 Matters
 - a) Pension Application Matters
 - b) P.L. 15-98
 - c) Disability Applicants
 2. DC Plan Update Report
 3. Rota and Tinian office space & PSS Lease Status
 4. OPA Audit and External Audit Updates
 5. Employer Contribution Non-Receipt & Impact Matters
 6. RFP 08-046 - Wrap Fee
 7. Health Insurance Open Enrollment
- VI. **NEW BUSINESS**
 1. Buck Consultants
 2. Drawdown Request
 - a) March 20, 2008
 3. Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor
 4. Certified Physicians
 5. Prorate Formula
 6. Fund Proposed Amendments - Adoption and Certification (CR V30 No.03/25/08)
 7. OPA Report - SHEFA
 8. WCC and GH/L Office Relocation
 9. RFP No. GH08-050
 10. BOT and Staff off-island training
- VII. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**
- VIII. **MISCELLANEOUS**
 - A. Announcements
 - B. Next Meeting
 - C. Adjournment

/s/ JUAN T. GUERRERO
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Northern Marianas College
Procurement & Property Management**

Office P.O. Box 501250 CK, Saipan, MP 96950 U.S.A.
Tel: (670) 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 Fax: (670) 235-7601
E-mail: procurement@nmcnet.edu Website: www.nmcnet.edu

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP 08-012**

Construction of Concrete Fish Tanks

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for the construction three (3) fish tanks at Paupau beach. Specifications and Scope of Work packages may be picked up at the **NMC Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Monday to Friday between the hours of 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:00-4:00 p.m.** There may be a fee when picking up a package. Please call 234-5498 ext. 2300/01/02 for information regarding fees.

Amended: Proposal Packages are due no later than 4:00 p.m., April 25th, 2008, Saipan time at the Northern Marianas College, As Terlaje Campus, Procurement Office, Bldg. L, 2nd Floor, Saipan, MP 96950.

Amended: In accordance with CNMI Public Law 15-95 and 15-118, this federally funded procurement is available to all United States permanent residents and citizens residing in any state and territory of the United States.

Amended: For Proposers located outside of the CNMI: You may request a copy of the RFP via fax (670) 235-7601 or e-mail to Duane R.T. Sablan (duanes@nmcnet.edu), or call NMC Procurement Office at (670) 234-5498 extensions 2300/01/02.

Amended: **PRE-BID BRIEFING******
There will be a Pre-bid briefing at 09:00 a.m., Tuesday, April 22nd, 2008 at the CREES Conference Room, building F, NMC As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

All Proposers are hereby notified that the Northern Marianas College will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, women and small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, national origin, political affiliation, creed, sex, religion, age, familial status, and disability status.

This solicitation does not constitute an offer and does not obligate the College in any way. The NMC reserves the right to reject any and/or all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposals, or cancel in part or its entirety this RFP, if it deems, in its sole discretion, it is in the best interest of the College. All costs incurred by the proposer to prepare a response to this solicitation and subsequent inquiries shall be borne by the proposer. All submittals shall become the property of NMC and will not be returned.

/ss/ 04 / 18 / 2008
Duane R.T. Sablan
Acting, NMC Procurement Officer

A land Grant Institution accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges and by
The Senior Commission for Colleges and Universities of the Western Association for Schools and Colleges

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. at BOE Conference Room, 2nd Floor, Retirement Fund Building, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. **Preliminary**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
- II. **Public Comments**
- III. **Old Business**
- IV. **Executive Session**
 - a. Legal Counsel's Report
 - b. Personnel
 - i. Rota High School petition matter
 - ii. Employment of the COE
 - c. Other matters
- V. **New Business**
 - a. Traditional School Calendar
 - b. COE report on Rota High School petition matter
 - c. Employment of the COE
- VI. **Miscellaneous Matters**
- VII. **Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
- VIII. **Adjournment**

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each and related to issues on the agenda.
² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Health & Fitness

Study: Acupuncture may boost pregnancy

By MARILYNN MARCHIONE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

It sounds far-fetched—sticking needles in women to help them become pregnant—but a scientific review suggests that acupuncture might improve the odds of conceiving if done right before or after embryos are placed in the womb.

The surprising finding is far from proven, and there are only theories for how and why acupuncture might work. However, some fertility specialists say they are hopeful that this relatively inexpensive and simple treatment might ultimately prove to be a useful add-on to traditional methods.

"It is being taken more seriously across our specialty," and more doctors are training in it, said Dr. William Gibbons, who runs a fertility clinic in Baton

Rouge, La., and is past president of the Society for Assisted Reproductive Technology. "I have not seen proof ... but we wouldn't mind at all" if it turned out to work, he said.

The analysis was led by Eric Manheimer, a researcher at the University of Maryland School of Medicine, and paid for by a federal agency, the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine. Results were published Friday in the British medical journal, BMJ.

Acupuncture involves placing very thin needles at specific points on the body to try to control pain and reduce stress. In fertility treatment, it is thought to increase blood flow to the uterus, relax the cervix and inhibit "fight or flight" stress hormones that can make it tougher for an embryo to implant, Manheimer said.

The analysis pools results from seven studies on 1,366 women in the United States, Germany, Australia and Denmark who are having in vitro fertilization, or IVF. It involves mixing sperm and eggs in a lab dish to create embryos that are placed in the womb.

Women were randomly assigned to receive IVF alone, IVF with acupuncture within a day of embryo transfer, or IVF plus sham acupuncture, in which needles were placed too shallowly or in spots not thought to matter.

Individually, only three of the studies found acupuncture beneficial, three found a trend toward benefit and one found no benefit. When results of these smaller studies were pooled, researchers found that the odds of conceiving went up about 65 percent for women given acupuncture.

Report: Language help better for patients at NY hospitals

NEW YORK (AP)—Two years ago, Aida Torres rushed her feverish daughter to the emergency room. Doctors at the Brooklyn hospital tried telling Torres that her mentally retarded daughter, Madayeli, needed surgery for an ovarian cyst, but the scared mother didn't understand them because she doesn't speak English.

Frustrated and desperate, the native of the Dominican Republic sought help from a Spanish-speaking hospital maintenance worker. He wasn't able to help either; Torres eventually asked a friend to leave work to interpret.

The New York Immigration Coalition and other groups released a report this week on the availability of language assistance at city hospitals for non-English-speaking patients—a vexing problem in a city where roughly 2 million people speak little or no English.

The report says that such help at hospitals seems to have improved since 2006, when state health officials began regulating communication between hospitals and their non-English-speaking patients, but more still needs to be done, particularly regarding languages such as Korean, Haitian Creole, Russian, Arabic and Bengali.

For people who don't speak English, the language barrier makes it difficult for them to explain symptoms, understand doctors' diagnoses and navigate the insurance system, advocates said.

The barrier can lead to misdiagnoses and even death, they said. Mistaken amputations, sterilizations and abortions have resulted from such barriers, they said.

Forcing patients to rely on hand gestures or relatives, friends or other patients to translate medical information can lead to miscommunication, violates privacy laws and can traumatize, say, a child relaying to a parent that the parent has cancer.

"It is simply impossible to provide quality health care unless patients can communicate their symptoms clearly, understand their diagnosis and knowingly consent to medical procedures," said Andrew Friedman, co-executive director of Make the Road New York, a civil rights organization that participated in the report.

The report, "Now We're Talking," was based on surveys conducted between October 2007 and February of this year of 617 patients who speak Spanish or Korean but not English. Officials stressed that the study wasn't scientific and provided only a snapshot.

It showed that 79 percent of patients said they received help in their native language compared to the 29 percent who said during a survey before the 2006 regulations that they communicated with hospital staff in their native language.

Before the regulations, which require private and public hospitals in the state to provide

skilled interpreters, translate important hospital forms into common languages and ensure patient care isn't delayed because of language issues, it wasn't uncommon for hospitals to tell non-English-speaking patients to bring their own interpreters.

According to the new report, only 5 percent of patients reported being told to bring their own interpreters.

"Hospitals have made real strides and have figured out how to communicate with Spanish speakers," said Adam Gurvitch, the coalition's director of health advocacy.

But there's "a real disparity" when it comes to hospitals serving speakers of other foreign languages, he said.

"There's some progress there, but not nearly enough," he said.

Nisha Agarwal, a staff attorney with New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, which advocates for such patients, said language assistance in hospitals appears to have improved since 2006 and she doesn't get as many calls from patients.

Claire Pospisil, a spokeswoman for the state Health Department, said the agency is constantly working to ensure that language assistance is provided to New Yorkers at hospitals.

She said the agency's hospital complaint line receives more than 10,000 calls each year; of those calls, there were only 20 complaints about language translation in 2006 and 10 last year.

Life & Style

Harry Potter case illustrates blurry line in copyright law

NEW YORK (AP)—For a time, "Harry Potter" superfan Steven Vander Ark seemed to be living a geeky dream.

His Web site—an obsessive catalog of spells, characters and creatures in J.K. Rowling's novels—was a hit among fellow fanatics. He spoke at conventions. Journalists sought him out for interviews. He was a guest on NBC's "Today" show.

Better still, Rowling knew who he was. She gave his site, The Harry Potter Lexicon, an award and confessed that she occasionally used its online encyclopedia as a reference. Warner Bros. invited him onto the set of "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix." He even made it on to the DVD, appearing in a documentary included as a special feature.

But all that changed after a little-known publishing company, RDR Books, announced it would release a print version of the lexicon. The author and Warner Bros. sued, asking a judge to block publication on the grounds that it violated copyright law, and the case went to trial this week.

The dispute has thrust Vander Ark into the middle of a closely watched case that illustrates the muddled state of copyright law enforcement when it comes to the Web.

Computers have given just about everyone the ability to copy sections of books, movies or songs and whip them into something new that they can post on the Internet.

The Web is awash with fan-produced material that could be the subject of a copyright fight, from remixed pop songs, to new fiction based on existing characters from books and TV shows, to countless tribute videos cut together with clips from TV shows or films.

"There is almost a parallel universe," said Alan Behr, an intellectual property lawyer in New York. "On the Internet, people basically do things you would never do in print."

And, for the most part, Behr said, the big media companies that own the material being mashed up and manipulated let it slide. There are simply too many offenders to chase, he said.

Warner Bros. and Rowling took a different approach when they sued on Halloween last year. During a three-day trial that concluded Wednesday, Rowling savaged Vander Ark as a plagiarist and a thief, saying the lexicon ripped off too much



Harry Potter author J.K. Rowling arrives at Manhattan federal court, Monday, April 14, 2008, in New York.

material from her books. It all reduced Vander Ark to tears at one point during the trial.

It was a surprising departure for Rowling, who has encouraged so-called "fan fiction" and once said there is nothing wrong with people writing new stories for her characters, to share with friends.

The author and her lawyers said they were stirred to action by the proposal to move the Potter lexicon from the anything-goes Web, where it was available for free, into book form, where it would compete directly with a Potter encyclopedia that Rowling plans to write herself.

In short, by deciding to sell his material, Vander Ark was stepping across a line. He was no longer just an enthusiastic fan, but a professional and potential competitor—fair game for the lawyers.

The question now for the courts is whether the lexicon itself violates copyright law, and the decision may not be easy.

U.S. rules allow for the "fair use" of copyrighted material in unauthorized works, but there are limits. Journalists may quote from films and books when writing a review. Scholars can use excerpts from a novel while penning an author's biography.

Generally, the call on whether such uses are legal comes

down to how much material was taken and how different the end product is from the original work.

Lawrence Pulgram, an intellectual property lawyer who represented Napster in a copyright fight with the rock band Metallica, said deciding where to draw the line is rarely easy.

"Fair use is the most erratically applied doctrine in copyright," he said.

Works like Vander Ark's lexicon fall into one of the tougher categories. It takes the form of an A-to-Z list of the hundreds of characters and place names from her books, followed by brief entries summarizing how they fit into the plot. There is also information on the origin of some of her characters in mythology and folklore.

Rowling and her legal team acknowledged that readers' guides like the lexicon are, in fact, allowed under the law, but made the case that Vander Ark simply took too much material.

U.S. District Judge Robert Patterson Jr. indicated that the case could go either way and encouraged both sides to settle. He suggested that a creative negotiation might produce a book that both sides could live with.

Rowling said during her testimony that Vander Ark could still do his book, as long as he changed it to take less of her material.

On 3rd anniversary as pope, Benedict encourages young people



Pope Benedict XVI greets Ebi Ogbu during a youth rally Saturday, April 19, 2008 at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y.

NEW YORK (AP)—Pope Benedict XVI focused on the future of his American church Saturday as he marked the third anniversary of his election as pontiff, rallying young people, priests and seminarians and assuring them of his support as they dealt with the damage from the clergy sex abuse scandal.

On a highly personal day, Benedict spoke of suffering under Nazism in his youth and, at another point, touched on his own "spiritual poverty." He added that he hoped to be a worthy successor to St. Peter, considered the first pope.

Benedict began the day with a Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral, the landmark Roman Catholic church on Fifth Avenue. The building was packed with cardinals and bishops, priests and nuns, who cheered him to mark the day he succeeded Pope John Paul II on April 19, 2005.

The German-born pope lamented that what he called "the joy of faith" was often choked by cynicism, greed and violence. Yet he drew an analogy to show how faith can overcome distractions and trials.

"The spires of St. Patrick's Cathedral are dwarfed by the skyscrapers of the Manhattan skyline, yet in the heart of this busy metropolis they are a vivid reminder of the constant yearning of the human spirit to rise to God," he said.

In America, he has said repeatedly, the religious intensity stands out in marked contrast to the tepid spiritual emphasis in his native Europe. That makes the U.S. a testing ground for him in his bid to counter secular trends in the world.

He also returned Saturday to the sex abuse scandal that he said has caused "so much suffering" for the American church, assuring his audience "of my spiritual closeness as you strive to respond with Christian hope to the continuing challenges that this situation presents."

It was the fourth time he has spoken of the scandal since beginning his first papal pilgrimage to the U.S. on Tuesday. While in Washington, he met with a small group of victims from the Boston Archdiocese, where the scandal boiled over in 2002. It was believed to be the first time a pope had met with victims of clerical sex abuse.

Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi, meeting with reporters Saturday, was asked if the scandal had dominated the agenda of the trip. He denied that, saying it was part of the central theme of the entire visit, "to give hope to the church in the United States."

Benedict later was driven to St. Joseph's Seminary in nearby Yonkers, for a rally with young Catholics and seminarians. Upon arriving he blessed about 50 disabled youngsters in the seminary chapel. Two small girls gave him a painting and a hug.

The pope got a hero's welcome at the youth rally from a festive crowd of 25,000, which burst into wild cheers when Benedict first acknowledged them from the stage. The shy theologian took time to reach out and shake hands with the ecstatic faithful in the front rows. The youngsters, meanwhile, sang "Happy Birthday" to him—he turned 81 on Wednesday—in his native German.

During his speech at the rally, Benedict reflected on the repression of his own youth under Nazism. He urged the young people and seminarians to carry on the faith while enjoying the liberties that they were fortunate to have.

"My own years as a teenager were marred by a sinister regime that thought it had all the answers," he said making a rare reference to his own life. "Its influence grew—infiltrating schools and civic bodies, as well as politics and even religion—before it was fully recognized for the monster it was."

As the busy day wore on, Benedict showed signs of tiring. His secretary reminded him to give his greetings in Spanish at the youth rally.

"I forgot my Spanish," the pope said with a chuckle. And the crowd laughed.

At the end of the St. Patrick's service, Benedict was clearly moved when his top assistant, Vatican Secretary of State Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, read a tribute for the third anniversary.

Benedict told the crowd of 3,000 that "I am deeply thankful" for the support they showed him, and for "your love, your prayers." The pope said that he, like St. Peter, was a "man with his faults."

The Rev. Michael Morris, a professor of church history at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, where a youth rally was organized for the pontiff Saturday, attended the Mass, and was among those cheering "Viva il Papa!" as Benedict passed by.

Morris, 47, credits John Paul's 1979 trip to the United States with drawing him toward

the priesthood. He hoped Benedict's visit would inspire young men today to do the same.

"I think it was a wonderful boost for priests and religious," said Morris, speaking about the clergy, nuns and brothers in religious communities.

"We're encountering a whole new generation that is very fervent and in many ways more heroic," he said. "They've been through the scandal and they still want to serve."

Benedict himself, on the flight to America from Rome, said as he addressed the scandal that it was more important to have "good priests than to have many priests."

Upon arriving at St. Patrick's, the pontiff was met outside by Mayor Michael Bloomberg, while former Mayor Rudy Giu-

liani was inside.

Giuliani received Holy Communion during the service from one of the many clergy who offered the sacrament. That raised some eyebrows since Giuliani has been married three times and supports abortion rights. Catholics who divorce and remarry without getting an annulment from the church cannot receive Communion. Giuliani did receive an annulment after his first marriage.

Benedict blessed the cathedral with holy water before making his way to the altar of the landmark church. As the pope walked down the center aisle, nuns clutched at his robes, showing an enthusiasm for his presence that has spread among the general public.

The Vatican said the pope

came outside from his residence on the Upper East Side on Friday night to greet a crowd of more than 500 people who had lined up for hours. He shook hands and blessed the crowd before returning inside.

On Sunday, the final day of his trip, the pope will visit ground zero to lead prayers, and later will celebrate a Mass at Yankee Stadium.

After the St. Patrick's service a roar went up from the crowd when the popemobile passed along Fifth Avenue, with people raising up their babies and others shooting pictures with cell phone cameras.

Daniela Rizzo brought her husband and their infant son from Connecticut.

"You can feel the energy," Rizzo said. "You can feel the faith."

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ABRAHAM PANGELINAN MANIBUSAN

Better known as Bung
Born on March 16, 1939 was called to
eternal life on April 14, 2008 at the age of 69.

Survived by his wife: **Bernadita Arriola Manibusan**
Son: **Joseph A. Manibusan/**
Stephanie V. Aldan

Reared Son: **Anthony F. Arriola**

Predeceased by:
His parents: **Antonia Pangelinan Manibusan**
Jose Cabrera Manibusan
Ana Benavente Manibusan

Brothers, Sisters/spouses:
Nicolasa M./Vicente I. Cepeda
Heronimo P./Candelaria N. Manibusan
Rufina M./Pedro M. Tudela
Vicente P./Maria B. Manibusan
Sylvia M./Antonio S. Cabrera
Joseph M./Santiago T. Camacho
Rita M./Juan C. Santos
Victoria M./Gregorio S. Sablan

His Twin: **Luis P. Manibusan**

Father/Mother-in-Law: †Francisco San Miguel Arriola
†Amalia San Nicolas Arriola
Brothers/Sisters-in-law: †Vicente SN. Arriola/Ana C. Arriola & Children
†Francisco SN. Arriola/Ana N. Arriola & Children
†Jesus SN. Arriola
Sisters/Brothers-in-law: †Petra A. Gogue/†Vicente Gogue & Children
Maria A. Ada/†Ignacio R. Ada
Gumataotao & Children

Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws:
• **Casiano (Cash) B./Elsie Matsunage & Family**
• **Francisco (Ankie) B./Nelda M. Manibusan & Family**
• **Maria (Kitalang) M./Moses 1. Sibetang & Family**
• **Dolores (Leng/Ling) B. Manibusan & Family**
• **Inocencia (Cheng) M./Francisco (Tik) B. Palacios & Family**
• **Lydia (Ding) M./Paul A. Manglona & Family**
• **Violeta Manibusan**
• **Daisy Santos**

Mass is being offered daily at San Vicente Church at 6:00 p.m.
followed by rosary. On Tuesday, April 22, 2008, his remains will be
escorted from CHC Morgue at 7:00 a.m. to San Vicente Church for
viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian burial will be at 10:00 a.m.
Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated
Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

Protesters take CNN to task over commentator's China remarks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chinese-Americans rallied outside CNN's Hollywood office on Saturday to demand the firing of commentator Jack Cafferty for calling China's goods "junk" and its leaders a "bunch of goons and thugs."

"We understand free speech," Lake Wang, 39, told the Los Angeles Times. "But what if Cafferty said this about other racial groups? I think he would be fired. I think he's jealous of China."

A crowd estimated by police at 2,000 to 5,000 gathered, chanting and holding signs that read "Fire Cafferty" and "CNN: Chinese Negative News." The crowd was peaceful, and no arrests were made, police Sgt. David Torres said.

Another two dozen people holding Chinese flags also demonstrated outside CNN's corporate headquarters in Atlanta.

Cafferty made the com-



Jack Cafferty prepares for an appearance on CNN's "The Situation Room," Wednesday, June 21, 2006, at CNN's New York headquarters.

ments during an appearance on "The Situation Room" that aired April 9.

Speaking about the U.S. trade deficit with China, Cafferty said: "We continue to import their junk with the lead paint on them and the poisoned pet food and export, you know, jobs to places where you can pay workers a dollar a month to turn out the stuff that we're buying from Wal-Mart."

"So I think our relationship with China has certainly changed," he continued. "I think they're basically the same bunch of goons and thugs they've been for the last 50 years."

A call Saturday seeking comment from CNN representatives was not immediately returned, but both Cafferty and a network statement earlier in the week stressed that the remarks were aimed at the Chinese government, not its people. CNN said

it apologized to anyone who thought otherwise.

China on Thursday snubbed CNN's apology. Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Jiang Yu said the CNN statement lacked sincerity and instead "turned its attack on the Chinese government to try to sow division between the Chinese government and the people."

China has been under scrutiny as it prepares to host the Olympics in August. Criticism of its human rights record and unrest in Tibet have received widespread coverage, leading Chinese leaders to accuse Western media of smearing the country.

A wave of verbal assaults on foreign media has raised concerns about media controls at the Olympics. CNN has been singled out by the Chinese government, and activists have phoned and e-mailed death threats to Western reporters.

Hollywood hopes theme parks, superheroes fly in Middle East

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Wonder Woman, King Kong and Shrek are heading for the Persian Gulf as part of the rush to build what could become the world's largest theme park playground.

But even as the ink dries on the billion-dollar deals in the United Arab Emirates, movie studios are grappling with ways to make their signature characters and amusement parks fly in the conservative Muslim region.

Politically sensitive charac-

ters such as Captain America could be left at home. Prayer rooms will join the list of accommodations, and menus will likely feature falafel and humus alongside pizza and hot dogs.

There's even a move afoot to offer Bollywood dance shows to lure Indian visitors.

Investors, studios and park operators are all aiming to cash in on what some observers call the Middle East's decades-long fascination with American culture.

Hollywood movies are popular in the region, and Western fashions are hot commodities among residents who travel abroad.

"On the one hand, they hate America. On the other hand they love America to the bone," said Michael Izady, an expert on Middle East culture who reaches history at Pace University in New York.

The theme park market is open—with no major facilities currently operating in the

Middle East.

The projects are no-brainers for the entertainment companies that have jumped at what amounts to free brand expansions with no capital at risk. Few details have been provided about the deals, which entertainment companies simply describe as licensing arrangements for intellectual property and help on designing the parks and attractions, with no mention of possible royalty payments.

Their investment partners have money and land to build the parks but lack the star-powered attractions to draw the millions of visitors needed to make them profitable.

Dubai, one of the seven constituents of the UAE, has thrived and turned into a magnet for the wealthy as oil money flowed in. The government wants to more than double the number of annual visitors from nearly 7 million last year to 15 million by 2015.

In recent months, eight major licensing deals have been struck between oil-rich investors and entertainment giants such as Viacom Inc.'s Paramount Pictures and Marvel Entertainment Inc. for theme parks and other attractions.

The first, a \$2.2 billion Universal Studios park based on franchises such as King Kong and Jurassic Park, is set to open in an area dubbed Dubailand on the city's desert outskirts in 2010.

Designs for the parks are moving quickly, despite lingering doubts about the long-term availability of financing and the lack of highways and other infrastructure to support the huge developments. Several projects are planned for a manmade island being reclaimed from the sea called Palm Jebel Ali.

Most of the parks are proposed for Dubai and Abu Dhabi, the region's most Westernized and cosmopolitan cities, where expatriates outnumber local citizens, bars and restaurants serve



This image provided by Warner Bros. shows a copy of an ad that appeared in local language newspapers in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) promoting a new theme park.

alcohol and foreign women stroll some beaches in bikinis.

Kevin Tsujihara, president of Warner Bros. home entertainment group, is convinced that Superman, Batman and other DC Comics characters licensed by Warner will be readily accepted by those who visit the park from the Middle East, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Even the bare-shouldered Wonder Woman shouldn't raise too many eyebrows "unless we depicted her as a Muslim woman," said Tsujihara, who is spearheading the Warner theme park in Abu Dhabi.

Even so, "we probably wouldn't have her running around in costume around the park," he said.

With plans to help build a \$1 billion theme park in Abu Dhabi by 2011, Marvel Entertainment Inc. is downplaying Captain America, a World War II creation draped in the American flag, in favor of attractions based on popular characters such as Spider-Man, Fantastic Four and X-Men - none of whom carry the same political baggage.

"One of the things that's nice about our characters is they're either about individuals helping people or they're about teams of people of different types, like mutants, that band together and solve problems," Marvel chairman David Maisel said.

"If anything, that's a good message for today's world

with all the different cultures," he said.

Park designers also plan to tweak the models used for North American theme parks.

Budweiser brewer Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. will include beer-tasting zones in its four-park complex anchored by SeaWorld, set to open in Dubai in 2012. The discreet zones will receive little advertising, in accordance with UAE government guidelines.

"Realistically, Dubai is a very cosmopolitan market. It's not unlike visiting Paris or New York or London or Berlin or Milan," Busch Entertainment president Jim Atchison said.

The Walt Disney Co., the world's largest theme park operator by far, is notably absent from the rush to the region. Disney parks and resorts chairman Jay Rasulo said Disney is studying the market.

Some observers said the cultural barriers might be easier to overcome than financial and infrastructure hurdles. Massive construction on a variety of projects is causing traffic jams as road construction has failed to keep pace with the building.

"The development in the UAE is outrunning the ability of the infrastructure to keep up," said Keith James, president of Jack Rouse Associates, which is helping develop a Ferrari automobile theme park in Abu Dhabi to open next year.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We, the family of the late

†Herbert William Kluge

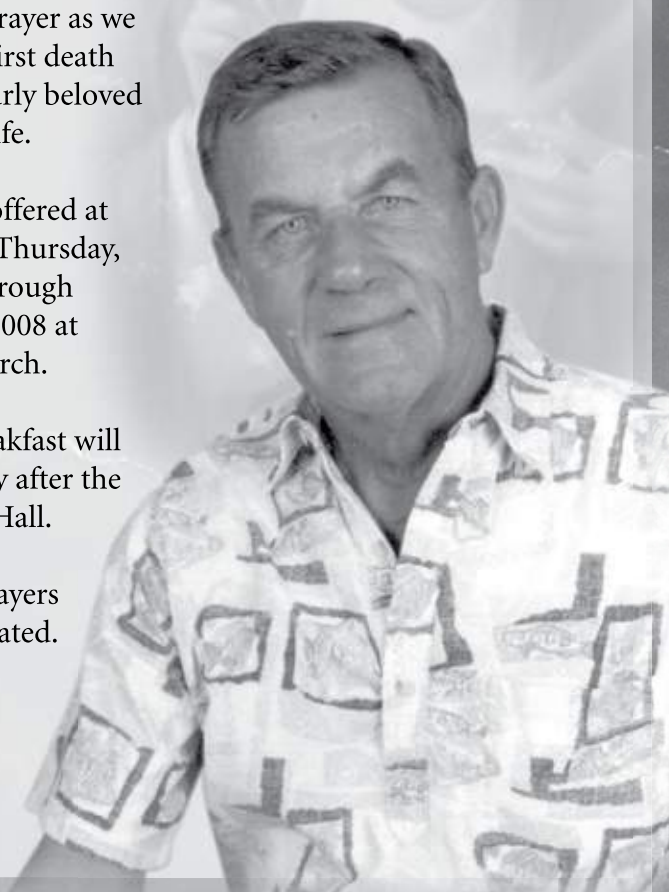
cordially invite all relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate the first death anniversary of our dearly beloved unto eternal life.

Daily mass will be offered at 6:00 a.m. beginning Thursday, April 17, 2008 through Friday, April 25, 2008 at Kristo Rai Church.

On the final day, breakfast will be served immediately after the mass at the Social Hall.

Your presence and prayers will be greatly appreciated.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

From
**Regina C. Kluge
and Family**



Sandra Bullock unhurt after suspected drunk driver hits car

GLOUCESTER, Mass. (AP)—Sandra Bullock and her husband were unhurt after a head-on crash with a drunken driver, police said Saturday.

The actress and her husband, Jesse James of TV's "Monster Garage," were being driven in a sport-utility vehicle Friday night when a station wagon crossed the center line and hit them, said Gloucester police Lt. Jerry Cook.

Both vehicles were totaled, but no one was hurt. The vehicles were traveling 15 to 20 mph, Cook said.



AP
This image provided by the Gloucester (Mass.) Police Dept. shows Lucille Gatchell, Friday, April 18, 2008 in Gloucester, Mass.

The other car was driven by Lucille Gatchell, who registered a blood-alcohol level of 0.20 percent, more than twice the legal limit of 0.08 percent, Cook said.

She was held by Gloucester police overnight and released Saturday on personal recognizance. She is to be arraigned Tuesday in Gloucester District Court.

Gatchell did not immediately return a call seeking comment Saturday. Calls to representatives for Bullock were not immediately returned.

Bullock, 43, was "gracious" and concerned about whether Gatchell was OK, Cook said.

The actress, who starred in such films as "Speed" and "Miss Congeniality," is in Massachusetts filming the romantic comedy "The Proposal."

Therapy helps deaf woman speak too well to be believed

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I am a deaf woman who was raised by a woman who made sure I had speech therapy most of my life. Because of it, my speech is quite good, and people often forget that I am deaf or don't believe me.

I was pulled over by a cop, and when I told him I was deaf and needed to read his lips, he didn't believe me. Friends and co-workers have even told me, "With speech like yours, you can't be THAT deaf!" It is frustrating and sometimes hurtful.

The truth is I cannot hear, and I need people to look at me so I can read their lips. Any suggestions on how to kindly remind people—including law enforcement officers—that I really am deaf?

Dear Abby

READ MY LIPS IN D.C.

DEAR READ MY LIPS: You should request from your physician a card explaining your hearing disability, and carry it in your wallet in case you are stopped again by law enforcement. You can also use it if there are any more misunderstandings in the workplace.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 46-year-old woman with two grown children. My daughter, "Summer," is abusive. Her husband, "Craig," laughs it off and calls it "just being Summer," but I don't find it funny. My health isn't 100 percent, and sometimes I need help.

I live in Nebraska, and Summer lives in Illinois. When she and Craig fight, she comes to stay with me and my husband. I had foot surgery last year. The last time Summer was here, we had an argument and she stomped on my feet until they bled. I was so badly injured I had to go to the ER for treatment.

Summer is now angry because I changed my will and made my best friend the executor. It has always been understood that if I got sick, Summer would take care of me because I don't want to go to a nursing home. But I'd rather risk being abused by a stranger than my daughter, and my son lives too far away to help.

Am I right about this? My husband doesn't like it. During the four years we've been together, he hasn't shown me he loves me enough to follow my wishes regarding being sick or dying. I'm not scared, but I need to know that what I want is what I'll get. Your thoughts, please?

MIND OF MY OWN

DEAR MIND OF MY OWN: Your daughter appears to be seriously disturbed. Because she has a history of violence, she should not stay in your home, nor should you be alone with her. I can only hope that after she assaulted you, the incident was reported to the police. Under no circumstances should she be your caregiver.

You have options besides going to a nursing home. One would be to hire a home health-care worker in the event you become unable to help yourself. You should also consult a lawyer who specializes in wills and trusts to ensure that a person you can trust has your power of attorney for health-care decisions and will, if necessary, fight like a tiger for you to ensure that your wishes are carried out.

Because your marriage is recent, you may also want to ensure that any property that's in your name is handled according to your wishes. Do not wait to do this. It will give you peace of mind.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Foxy Brown gets out of NYC jail after serving 8 months

NEW YORK (AP)—Rapper Foxy Brown is out of jail. Family and fans greeted Brown Friday outside Rikers Island as she was released from the jail after serving an eight-month sentence.

"The first place I want to go is church. I've got to get on my knees," said Brown.

Instead, Brown went shopping in Harlem, had some soul food and was driven to her childhood home in Brooklyn in a white Rolls Royce Phantom.

Her mother, Judith Marchand, presented her with smiley-face balloons and the two hugged outside the family's home in the Prospect Heights neighborhood. A VH1 crew captured the reunion for an upcoming reality

show.

"I did almost a year in prison, a year in prison, just because my name is Foxy Brown," she said.

Brown, whose real name is Ingrid Marchand, was sentenced in September 2007 to a year in jail for violating the terms of her probation after she was accused of hitting a woman with a cell phone. She was on probation for an August 2004 attack on two manicurists at a Manhattan nail salon. She pleaded guilty to misdemeanor assault in the 2004 incident.

Known for her saucy outfits and racy lyrics, the 29-year-old rapper has a handful of albums, including "Ill Na Na" and "Chyna Doll."



AP
Foxy Brown, whose real name is Inga Marchand, exits Manhattan Criminal Court, March 1, 2007, in New York.

Ed Cash wins big at BMI's Christian Music Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Ed Cash won songwriter of the year honors and his composition "Made to Worship" was named song of the year Saturday at BMI's 2008 Christian Music Awards.

Broadcast Music Inc., a performing rights organization, recognizes the writers and publishers of the most-performed songs on Christian radio and television during the previous year.

Awards were presented in five categories: Christian rock, contemporary Christian, inspirational, urban gospel and Southern gospel.

Cash won the songwriter award for "Made to Worship," "Holding Onto You" and "How Can I Keep from Singing."

The night's other big winners included gospel luminary Donald Lawrence; contemporary Christian star Aaron Shust; genre-bender tobyMac; Christian rock outfit Red's Jansen Rauch and Anthony Armstrong; urban gospel singer Kirk Franklin; Jars of Clay members Dan Haseltine, Charlie Lowell, Steve Mason and Matt Odmark; and Mark Hall, the 2007 Christian songwriter of the year.

Actors, producers are mum on progress in contract talks

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Groups representing film actors and producers have completed another day of negotiations.

The Screen Actors Guild and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers released a statement saying they met Saturday. They say they

will continue talks Monday but have no further comment.

Contract negotiations between the Screen Actors Guild and the producers group began Tuesday and are scheduled to run through April 26.

The union's contract with the studios expires June 30.

James Bond film car plunges into northern Italy lake

ROME (AP)—The car being used in the latest James Bond film plunged into a lake in northern Italy while being driven to the set.

Producers say the driver of the Aston Martin was taken to a hospital with minor injuries. They say James Bond's iconic car was being delivered to the filming unit in heavy rain

on Saturday morning when it went off the road and plunged into Lake Garda.

Italian state TV has shown footage of the smashed, black car being hoisted out of the water.

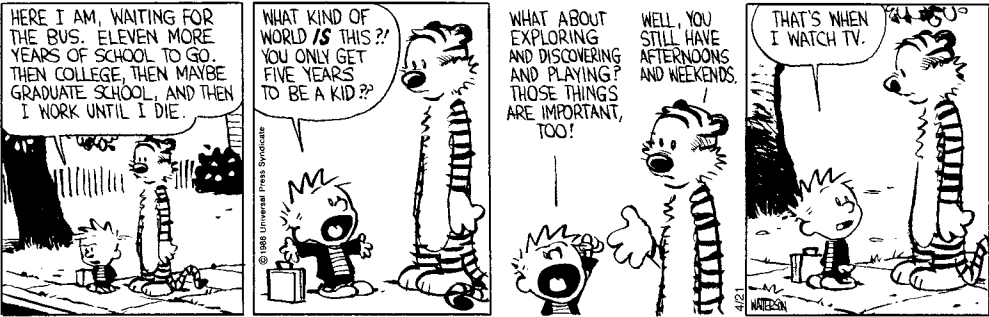
"Quantum of Solace" is the newest film in the 007 series. It stars Daniel Craig and is due for release later this year.



AP
An Aston Martin, James Bond's iconic car, is fished out of Lake Garda, near Torbole, northern Italy, Saturday, April 19, 2008, after it plunged into the water during the drive to the set of the latest film in the 007 series.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson

Garfield®



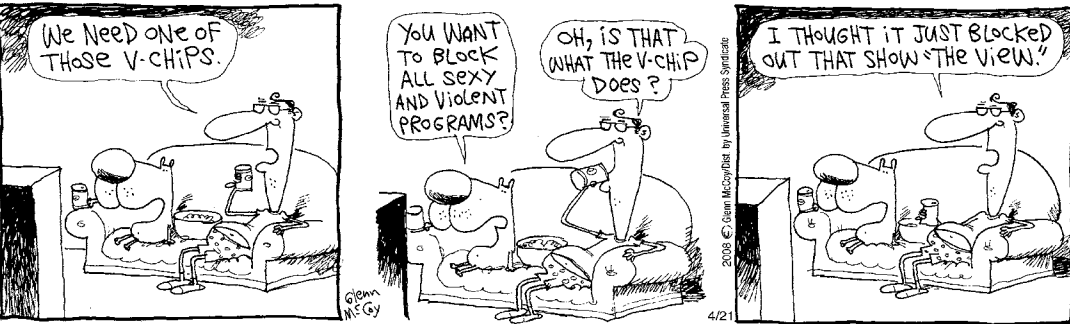
By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset

The Duplex



By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS 41 Body of an organism 43 Hood of a Brit's car 45 Sheriffs' bands 47 Brock of baseball to 48 Sapporo sash 49 Something added 54 Cattle call? 55 Drive out roughly 56 That woman 57 Calligrapher's tool 58 Undoes dees 59 "Bam!"

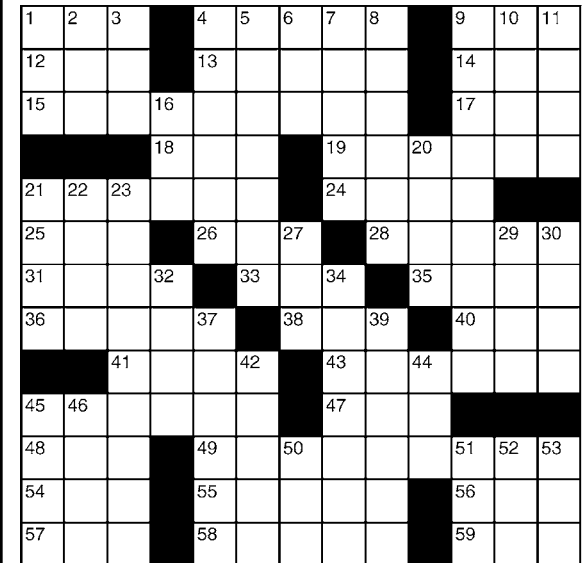
DOWN 1 "If — Tuesday, ..." 2 Retainer 3 Pouch 4 Here and there 5 Just say no 6 Luau dish 7 Acknowledges 8 Grad-to-be 9 Relief from suffering 10 Terrible guy? 11 "West Side Story" faction 16 Sea flier 20 Destroy

21 Resorts international? 22 Sell temporarily 23 Ticket price 27 Drag behind 29 Leg joint 30 Kind 32 Grandson of Eve 34 "... the — Roman of them all" 37 Fingerprints 39 Gives a leg up 42 Neckwear 44 Greek consonants 45 Circumstance partner 46 Reed instrument 50 Billiards stick 51 AOL, for ex. 52 Discoverer's cry 53 Fresh

Solution time: 24 mins.

ESCAILSPHAT
TOOScotrole
ARCpineUPPN
LEADINGLADIES
KERGLIE
KNIFEbadMED
EASYFURHIED
GYMHUGCELLS
OARAH
READINGMATTER
AMIDIRESRAH
GIDEANSUSE
STARHYDEETA

Saturday's answer 4-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andie Macdowell, 50; Tony Danza, 57; Iggy Pop, 61; Charles Grodin, 73

Happy Birthday: You have so much to gain this year by staying focused and working toward your goals. If someone is trying to upset you, rethink the relationship. You have drive, stamina and know-how. Strive to improve your home, your business and your personal relationships. Your numbers are 12, 18, 21, 27, 33, 42

ARIES (March 21-April 19): A blow-up is likely if you refuse to listen to good advice. A cause you think is worthy of a donation will not be what it appears. If you can't make a good decision, don't make one at all.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Emotional matters will leave you feeling vulnerable, especially when you have to make a fast decision. Look at the bright side of any situation you face and you will win over some important support. A short trip will pay off in information.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Don't change your mind too often today or you will be labeled irresponsible. Be upfront regarding any work-related plans. If you deviate from what you are supposed to be doing or what's been approved, you will be held responsible for the outcome.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The more you combine work with pleasure, the further you will go today. Do some networking or get in touch with people in your industry. Take a serious look at something you know you can do well and show off your talents today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Whatever you do don't sit around home. Get out and have fun or book a romantic and adventuresome vacation to an exotic destination. If you opt to do nothing, you can expect to face complaints.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You should have everything in order today. Don't stop because someone else isn't sure what he or she is going to do. Proceed with your plans and you'll get what you want. A talk with someone will pay off big time.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): There is no room for laziness, so don't even think about it. Take note of what others say but don't let their comments set you back. You need to give yourself a bit of space to review your next move and implement it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Let your thoughts be known but not at the expense of looking silly. Be sure you have all the facts before you take a position. A problem with someone you care about will develop if someone hasn't been honest about what's going on.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): There is probably something going on behind your back or you are trying to withhold information from someone. Get things out in the open if you don't want matters to get worse. Stand up for your rights but do so with integrity.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): You can tie up loose ends and take a stance that will have everyone talking today.

EUGENIA LAST
THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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You can make, reclaim and come into money through investments, debts owed or even your own good luck. Communication will bring everything into perspective.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't be fooled by a story. Get the facts or you will end up being taken advantage of emotionally and possibly financially. Delays can be expected if you are trying to get from one place to another.

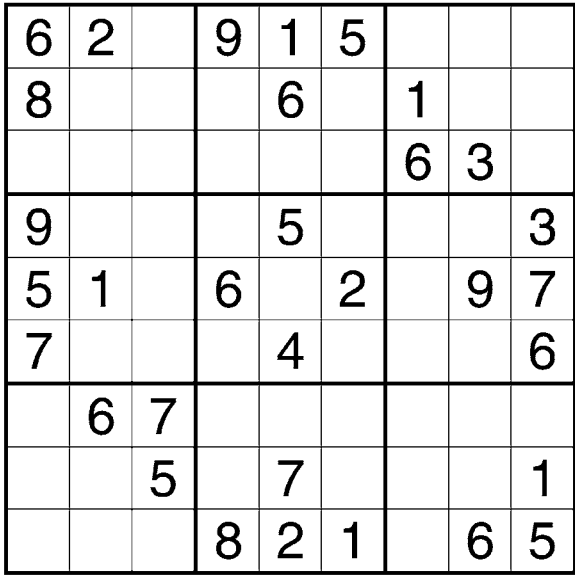
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Get ready for a good time. You can mix and mingle with all sorts of people today. A little primping will make you feel great, look great and give you added confidence. Put your money into something you really believe in.

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, caring, a little possessive, serious and determined. You respond quickly and with good common sense. You are passionate, loving and a great friend and companion.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

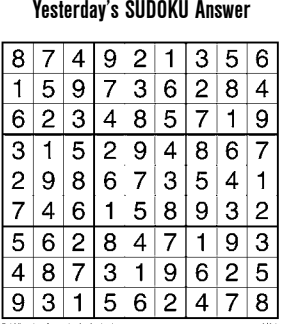
SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★ 4/21
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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

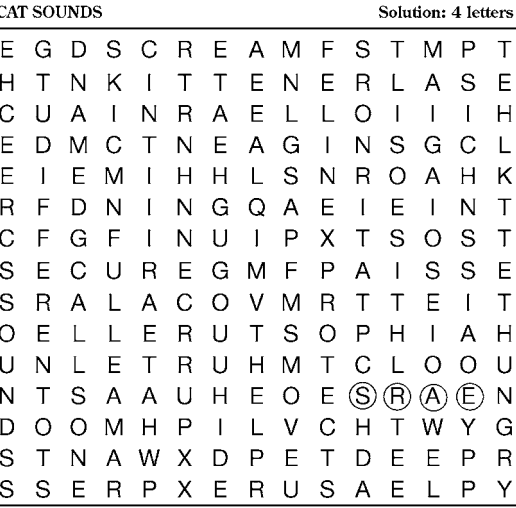


Difficulty Level ★★★ 4/19

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.



©2008 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 4/21
Calls, Chest, Communicate, Deep, Demand, Different, Ears, Emotion, Exhales, Express, Feline, Fighting, Fright, Full, Help, Hide, Hissing, Humming, Hungry, Hurt, Inhales, Kitten, Leap, Learn, Lick, Meaning, Mood, Move, Noise, Pain, Persist, Pets, Play, Pleasure, Posture, Protect, Purr, Relaxation, Scream, Screech, Secure, Sounds, Squeal, Tail, Teach, Throat, Vocal, Wants
Last Saturday's Answer: Settlement
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cal & worker's compensation. Contact:
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cal & worker's compensation. Contact:
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ing with \$60.00 deduction, medical
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mer Holiday Hotel @234-3182.

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ing with \$60.00 deduction, medical
& worker's compensation. Contact:
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mer Holiday Hotel @234-3182.

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WHATZIT Solution:
All right on the night

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| | |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
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lished on either Sunday or Monday issues.

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Classified Ads

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CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Duncan carries Spurs to Game 1 win over Suns in double-OT



SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Midway through the first quarter after missing two jumpers, Tim Duncan threw the ball up yet again, then held his arms wide. This time, would the shot fall? It did. And much later the Spurs' big man hit an even bigger one. Duncan's first 3 of the season with just ticks left sent his team into double overtime against the revenge-minded Phoenix Suns.

Then it was Manu Ginobili's turn, and his layup with 1.8 seconds left pushed the defending champions past the Suns 117-115 Saturday in Game 1 of their first-round playoff series.

Now the teams have two days to rest from their marathon best-of-seven Western Conference opener before meeting for Game 2 on Tuesday night.

"I got a wide-open shot. Wound it up. Threw it up there and hoped for the best," said a clearly tired Duncan, who had 40 points and 15 rebounds.

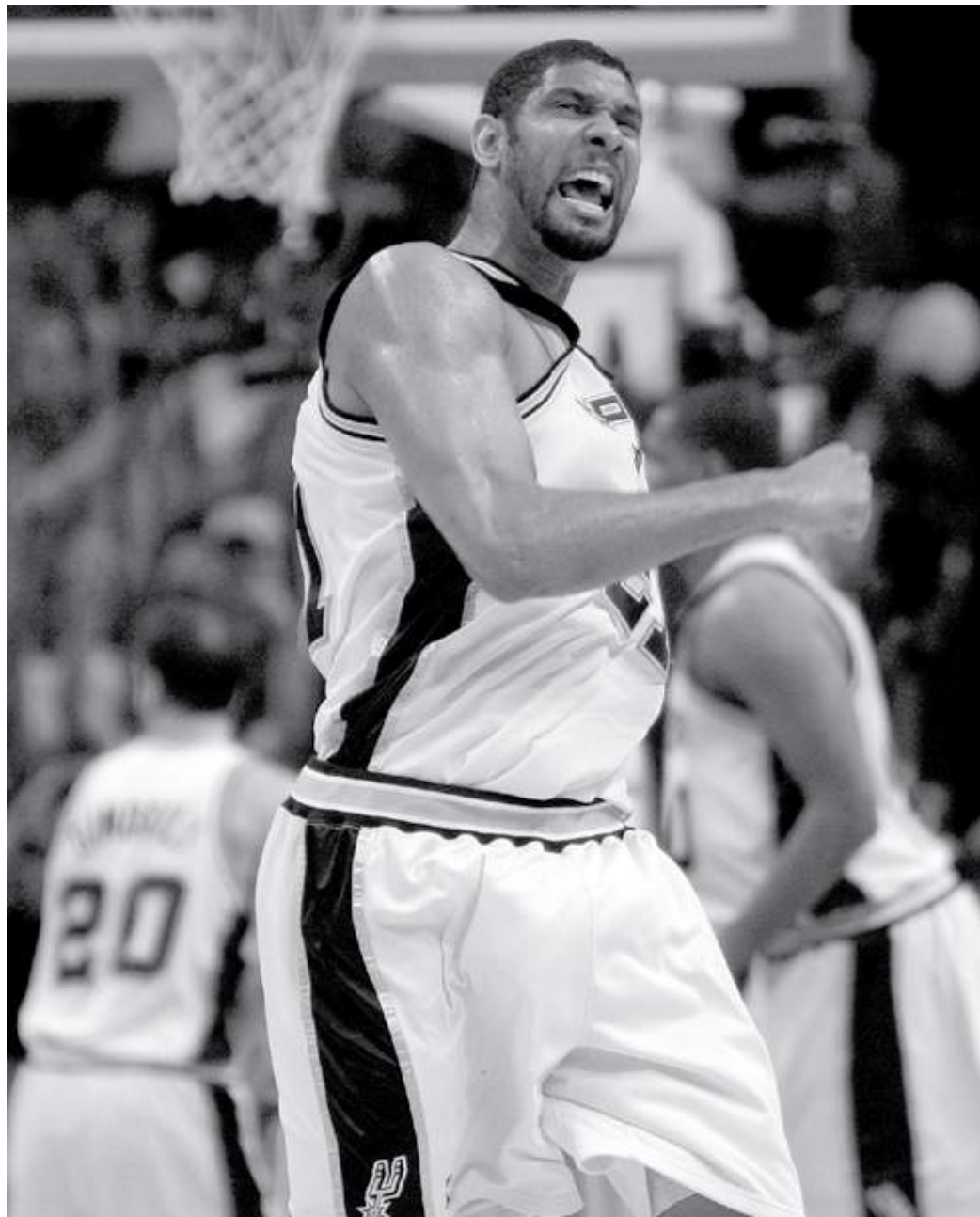
This year's rematch of what many dubbed last year's real finals—a tense and testy second-round series between the teams that the Spurs won in six games on their way to the title—got off to a wild start and more than met expectations.

"It feels like a finals game," Duncan said. "It's the first game of the first series, and we're going to have to muster energy back up."

Early on, Game 1 did not look like it would turn into a thriller. The Suns controlled play for the first three quarters, leading by as many as 16 points despite early foul trouble for Shaquille O'Neal. The Suns held a six-point lead with a quarter left in regulation.

The Spurs took their first lead of the game late in the fourth quarter, but were down 93-90 with 1:10 to go after Leandro Barbosa's fast-break layup.

With 15 seconds on the clock,



San Antonio Spurs forward Tim Duncan reacts after he made a three-point shot against the Phoenix Suns during the end of their first overtime in Game 1 of their Western Conference playoff basketball series in San Antonio, Saturday, April 19, 2009.

Michael Finley tied it at 93 for the Spurs to send it to overtime.

"We had the game won a few times and just weren't tough enough or disciplined enough to make every single play when it counted," said Steve Nash, who had 25 points and 13 assists.

Duncan made the big shot in the first overtime. With his team down 104-101, Duncan found himself all alone at the 3-point line.

After only a slight hesitation, he fired the ball and made it with 3 seconds to play. It was Duncan's first 3 of the season. He was 0-for-4 previously.

"I didn't know what was going to happen, honestly," Duncan said. "Manu turned the corner, Shaq just totally leaves me and stayed with Manu."

In the second overtime, Shaq's dunk tied it at 112 with 1:33 to play. Ginobili's layup

put the Spurs ahead.

Nash missed a key 3 with less than a minute to play. After risky, cross-court inbounds pass to the Spurs' Brent Barry, he was fouled. Barry made one of two free throws.

With 15 seconds left, the Suns went to sharp shooter Nash. Nearly falling out of bounds in the corner, he hit a 3 that made it 115-all.

Then Ginobili drove the lane

against Raja Bell and got to the hoop, as he often does, almost at will, and his layup fell.

"What I knew, before taking it to the rim, is that Shaq and Amare (Stoudemire) were not there," Ginobili said. "So, I knew if I had the opportunity to go get in there, get some legs into the shot, I had an opportunity to finish."

Tony Parker added 26 points for the Spurs and Ginobili had 24.

"We had a lot of opportunities to win," O'Neal said. "You can't make mistakes against a team like that especially here in this building."

But O'Neal wasn't completely contrite.

"I just wanted to play aggressive, but the floppers prevailed today. Amare and myself are going to continue to play aggressive," O'Neal said of his foul trouble. "Hopefully those guys will compete rather than just fall down."

Stoudemire, who fouled out with 12 seconds left in the first overtime, led the Suns with 33 points. O'Neal scored 11 points.

"They know we let them have one," O'Neal said. "All we need is one in this building."

Phoenix acquired O'Neal in a blockbuster midseason trade for a series such as this one to give the run-and-gun Suns a defensive boost.

O'Neal played just under four minutes in the first quarter after picking up two quick fouls. He was on the court for just 24 seconds in the second quarter before picking up his third foul and sitting out the rest of the half.

O'Neal missed two shots right off, the first when his dunk off an alley-oop pass missed. He didn't score in the first half.

Even though Phoenix got O'Neal to help their half-court game, the Suns, who still like to play quick, had only nine fast-break points in the game.

The Spurs, on the other hand, were able to punish the Suns with their strong suit. They had

a 72-46 advantage in the paint.

"They're just not going to fold up their tent and go home," Suns coach Mike D'Antoni said. "They're going to make runs. This is their homecourt. You're going to have to beat them."

Hornets 104, Mavericks 92

In New Orleans, Chris Paul had 35 points and 10 assists in his first playoff game, lifting New Orleans to a come-from-behind victory over Dallas.

New Orleans stormed back from a 12-point halftime deficit and won going away.

The Mavericks had only nine field goals in the second half and no answer to Paul, whose third year in the NBA has included a maiden All-Star game selection and serious consideration for league MVP.

Jazz 93, Rockets 82

In Houston, Andrei Kirilenko scored 21 points to lead Utah over Houston.

Carlos Boozer had 20 points and 16 rebounds for the Jazz, which was a modest 17-24 on the road during the regular season.

Utah had a 34-29 rebounding edge through three quarters and Boozer hit 10 of 20 shots.

Houston shot 37 percent.

Cavaliers 93, Wizards 86

In Cleveland, LeBron James scored 32 points to lead Cleveland over Washington in the opener of the third consecutive first-round playoff series these Eastern Conference rivals have played.

Called "overrated" by Washington's DeShawn Stevenson in the final weeks of the season, James scored 20 points in the second half to lead the defending Eastern Conference champions.

James sat out the early part of the fourth quarter to rest a troublesome back. But once he returned to the floor, the superstar forward came through.

NBA owners vote to approve the SuperSonics' relocation

SEATTLE (AP)—Those "Save our Sonics!" chants are now desperate pleas. When NBA owners overwhelmingly approved the SuperSonics' move to Oklahoma City for the 2008-09 season Friday—provided the team can settle its lawsuit with its hometown for the last 41 years—pain finally joined anger in Seattle.

"We're not surprised, but it still hurts," said Brian Robinson, head of the fan group "Save our Sonics!"

Robinson paid his way to New York, then at 6 a.m. Friday he began standing outside the Manhattan hotel where the NBA's board of governors were meeting. He spent the morning staring down league owners on their way into the vote.

"The NBA doesn't seem to be showing any concern for the fans of the market," he said.

Sonics owner Clay Bennett tried. He said he was "honored" by the 28-2 vote by his colleagues for a move that will cost Bennett a \$30 million relocation fee.

"I also want to express my regret to the citizens of Seattle and the fans of the Sonics that I was unsuccessful in bringing forth a new building," Bennett said, addressing the issue of how genuine his effort was in Seattle.

"We tried the best we knew how to try and (I) did the best job I could," Bennett said. "Seattle is a great city. There's great fans. There is a great history."

"But decisions have now been made. ... Now I turn my focus to Oklahoma City. And I'm thrilled," said the financial capitalist, whose family is one of Oklahoma's wealthiest.

Seattle officials were already on a full-court press to make the

Sonics fulfill the final two years of its lease by playing inside KeyArena. Friday's vote just increased the stakes.

The Sonics would be the third NBA team to change cities this decade. The Hornets went from Charlotte to New Orleans for the 2002-03 season. Vancouver lost the Grizzlies to Memphis in 2001.

"The Sonics have a valid lease with the city of Seattle through 2010. And we intend to enforce that lease," Mayor Greg Nickels said at City Hall Friday. "We will continue with the litigation to ensure that they comply with that lease."

There are three potential ends for Seattle:

■ The U.S. District Court that will begin hearing the trial June 16 in Seattle over the team's lease dispute could rule for the

city and say the Sonics must play in KeyArena for the final two years of the lease.

NBA Commissioner David Stern said the league is prepared for the Sonics to play two more seasons in Seattle, if that's what the court orders. He said the Sonics stand to lose as much as \$30 million per season in that scenario.

The city's hope is to keep the Sonics in town for two lame duck seasons, to buy time for a group led by Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer to find an arena solution and eventually purchase the team from Bennett. Ballmer's group already has proposed paying for half of a \$300 million expansion of KeyArena.

■ The court could rule for Bennett and agree with him that he can simply write a check to

buy out the final two years of the lease so he can move the team this summer.

■ Bennett could make a settlement offer so large, Seattle could not refuse it.

Seattle has already turned down Bennett's \$26.5 million buyout offer. Thursday, Nickels deflected questions about how large the offer would have to get before Seattle would consider it.

When asked Friday if he was expecting a new, richer offer from Bennett, Nickels said, "I don't really care. We're going to go into court in June."

Bennett is going to try to avoid that.

"I am hopeful that we can re-establish communications and some sort of platform to have a meaningful, principled conversation," he said. "We are certainly nowhere near that today."

Bennett and the league have strong motivation to avoid the court case. Losing the trial would create an ugly, almost unprecedented scenario for the NBA of a team hemorrhaging money playing games in an area that has become openly hostile to its ownership. The Sonics are coming off their worst season in franchise history and already had fans staying away from games.

"You know, it will make the parting somewhat less amicable. But so be it," Stern said of a move to Oklahoma in 2010.

Stern warned Seattle isn't likely to land another NBA team anytime soon for the same reason the Sonics are leaving: the ongoing reluctance of state and local officials to help pay for a replacement for outdated KeyArena.

Ortiz, Ramirez push Red Sox to comeback win over Rangers



BOSTON (AP)—Manny Ramirez hit a two-run homer after slumping slugging partner David Ortiz's tying RBI single in the eighth inning, lifting the Boston Red Sox over the Texas Rangers 5-3 in the American League on Saturday.

Dustin Pedroia doubled off the Green Monster against Joaquin Benoit (1-1) with one out to start the rally, and Ortiz followed with a hard single that bounced off the glove of diving second baseman Ian Kinsler and into short right field. Ramirez then hit an 0-1 pitch over the Monster seats for his sixth of the season and 496th of his career.

Javier Lopez (1-0) escaped a two-on, two-out jam by getting Josh Hamilton to line to center. Jonathan Papelbon got the final three outs for his sixth save and the Red Sox won for the seventh time in eight games.

Hamilton homered for Texas, his fourth of the year.

Blue Jays 3, Tigers 2

At Toronto, Alex Rios homered, Dustin McGowan won for the first time this season and Toronto snapped a six-game home losing streak.

McGowan (1-1) pitched a season-high seven innings, allowing two runs and seven hits.

Detroit's Jeremy Bonderman (1-2) walked six, one of them intentionally, in five innings.

Twins 3, Indians 0

At Minneapolis, Justin Morneau hit a two-run homer for power-poor Minnesota, and Nick Blackburn made it stand up with 7 2-3 scoreless innings in a victory over Cleveland.

Blackburn (1-1) earned his first major league win, giving up eight hits without a walk. He ended four innings by inducing double-play grounders, including two by David Dellucci.

Morneau took Jake Westbrook (1-2) deep in the first inning for his fifth homer and a 2-0 lead. Jason Kubel, who has

three home runs, is the only other Twins player who has homered in 18 games this season.

Athletics 6, Royals 5

At Oakland, California, Kurt Suzuki singled home Chris Denorfia with the go-ahead run in the seventh inning and Oakland knocked around Kansas City's bullpen for a second straight game.

Daric Barton hit a single, double and triple to make up for a critical fielding error in the second inning while five other players had two hits apiece for the Athletics, who set a season high with 16 hits.

Jose Guillen and Miguel Olivo both homered for struggling Kansas City, which managed only three hits over the final seven innings. Joel Peralta (0-1) took the loss for the Royals.

Angels 4, Mariners 1

At Anaheim, California, Ervin Santana allowed three hits over eight innings and retired 20 of his first 21 batters, leading Los Angeles past Seattle.

Santana (3-0) struck out eight and walked none, improving his all-time home record to 26-9. He allowed only three hits, including Adrian Beltre's homer with two out in the seventh, snapping a string of 16 consecutive Seattle outs.

Jarrod Washburn (1-3) allowed four runs, 10 hits and no walks over six innings.

Orioles 6, Yankees 0

At Baltimore, Brian Burres and Jim Johnson combined on a six-hitter and Baltimore handed New York its third straight loss.

Burres gave up five hits and four walks with two strikeouts in 5 2-3 innings for the Orioles, and Johnson allowed the Yankees just one hit the rest of the way to pick up the first save of his career.

Ramon Hernandez and Aubrey Huff each drove in two runs and Kevin Millar homered for the Orioles.

Ian Kennedy (0-2) had an-



AP
Boston Red Sox's Manny Ramirez, right, celebrates his two-run home run with teammate David Ortiz in the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Texas Rangers, Saturday, April 19, 2008, in Boston.

other rough outing for the Yankees, giving up four runs and five hits with five walks to raise his ERA to 9.64.

Rays 5, White Sox 0

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Andy Sonnanstine threw a three-hitter for his first career complete game and Tampa Bay beat Chicago.

The White Sox had just three singles, including a bunt hit, and didn't get a runner past second base.

Sonnanstine (2-1) struck out four and walked one. Tampa Bay stopped a six-game losing skid against Chicago.

Mark Buehrle (1-2) gave up five runs and 12 hits in seven innings for the White Sox.

Diamondbacks 10, Padres 3

At Phoenix, Chris Young singled home the go-ahead run in the

seventh inning, and the Arizona Diamondbacks scored six runs in the eighth inning to rout the San Diego Padres.

Arizona won its fourth straight and improved to a major league-best 13-4, the best start in its 11-year history.

Arizona trailed 3-2 in the seventh when Justin Upton greeted reliever Joe Thatcher (0-2) with an infield single. Upton scored when Paul McNulty misplayed Stephen Drew's drive to left field, which was ruled a double.

Drew scored on Young's sharp single to left to give the Diamondbacks a 4-3 lead.

Arizona's rally cost San Diego Chris Young a victory. Young gave up two runs and three hits in six innings.

Mets 4, Phillies 2

At Philadelphia, Oliver Perez pitched 5 2-3 scoreless innings,

Jose Reyes hit a two-run homer and New York beat Philadelphia for the fourth straight time.

David Wright had a two-run double for the Mets. Each of New York's wins has come with 2007 NL MVP Jimmy Rollins missing from the Phillies' lineup.

Perez (2-0) allowed four hits, struck out seven and overcame five walks.

Chase Utley hit a solo homer for the Phillies. Jamie Moyer (1-1) gave up two runs and seven hits in six innings.

Braves 4, Dodgers 1

At Atlanta, Chuck James allowed one run in five innings and the Atlanta bullpen shut down Los Angeles for a third straight victory.

Mark Teixeira's two-run single highlighted a four-run fifth that accounted for all the Atlanta scoring and handed James (1-1) the win hours after his recall from Triple-A Richmond.

Andruw Jones, the longtime Braves center fielder now playing for the Dodgers, his first homer for Los Angeles, and Chad Billingsley (0-3) took the loss.

Brewers 5, Reds 3, 10 innings

At Cincinnati, Bill Hall's two-run double in the 10th inning kept Milwaukee perfect in extra innings this season.

Hall sent a full-count pitch from David Weathers (0-2) into the gap in right-center to break a 3-all tie and send Cincinnati to its seventh loss in eight games.

Reds rookie starter Johnny Cueto gave up three runs—two earned—in seven innings. Joey Votto hit his third home run in the last four games.

Cubs 13, Pirates 1

At Chicago, Jason Marquis pitched six solid innings for his first victory since Sept. 16, Derrek Lee and Daryle Ward homered and Chicago beat Pittsburgh for the eighth straight time.

Marquis (1-0) allowed a run

and six hits while striking out seven. He helped himself with an RBI double.

Chicago took a 7-0 lead after three innings, roughing up Tom Gorzelanny (1-2) for the second time this season.

Nate McLouth provided Pittsburgh's highlight, extending his hitting streak to 17 games with a fifth-inning double.

Giants 3, Cardinals 0

At St. Louis, San Francisco's Tim Lincecum pitched seven sharp innings and beat St. Louis for the second time in a week.

Aaron Rowand hit a solo home run and an RBI single as the Giants ended a three-game losing streak.

Lincecum (3-0) gave up six hits and struck out five in his 10th major league victory—three have been against St. Louis.

The Giants again beat Joel Pineiro (0-2), who gave up three runs and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings.

Rockies 3, Astros 2

At Houston, Brad Hawpe singled in the go-ahead run in the fifth, Aaron Cook pitched seven strong innings and Colorado won its four straight game.

Cook (2-1) allowed two runs—one earned—and four hits.

Houston's Oscar Villareal (0-3) allowed a run and two hits in two innings of relief after starter Wandy Rodriguez left the game because of a sore left groin after four innings. The Astros have dropped three straight.

Marlins 6, Nationals 5

At Miami, Wes Helms singled in the winning run in the bottom of the ninth and Florida snapped a two-game losing streak.

Helms' one-out grounder up the middle off reliever Saul Rivera (1-1) scored Dan Uggla from second.

Mike Jacobs and Jorge Cantu had three hits each for Florida. Josh Willingham had two hits, including a triple, and scored twice.

Deja Boo? Weekley takes 3rd-round lead at Verizon Heritage



HILTON HEAD ISLAND, S.C.
(A P) —

Defending champion Boo Weekley continued his remarkable run at Harbour Town Golf Links, using a stretch of five straight birdies to move in front Saturday in the Verizon Heritage.

Weekley shot a 6-under 65 to reach 15 under and move three strokes ahead of Anthony Kim (67) and five in front of Aaron Baddeley (67), Jason Bohn (67) and Cliff Kresge (68). Second-round leader Lucas Glover shot a 73 to drop seven shots back.

Weekley chipped in on the 71st and 72nd holes a year ago to beat Ernie Els for his first PGA Tour victory. The good-natured, self-

proclaimed country boy from the Florida Panhandle hasn't slowed down in his return.

"Overall, it was a great round," Weekley said. "I kind of got to feeling solid over my putts."

No one's had a better start than Weekley at Pete Dye's menacing masterpiece of tight fairways, smallish greens and railroad ties.

Weekley has a sting of seven straight rounds in the 60s. That tied Greg Norman for second at Harbour Town behind Nick Price's nine in a row.

Those major champions had made several Harbour Town starts before their streaks began. Weekley hadn't teed it up here until last year.

Weekley started the day a stroke behind Glover. Weekley

fell two back after finding the sand on the par-5 second hole and settling for par while Glover made birdie.

Then Weekley's run began with—what else?—a chip in on the par-3 fourth.

"It was good to see something go in," he said. "That got me jump started."

A two-putt birdie on the par-5 fifth followed. Weekley stuck his approach on the next hole to 7 feet for a third straight birdie and a tie with Glover.

Weekley moved in front on the seventh with a 10-foot birdie putt.

When Weekley rolled home a 20-footer on the eighth, he was two shots in front.

Weekley pumped his fist and pointed as the fans chanted

"Boooo! Boooo!"

The streak ended on the ninth when Weekley saved par out of the sand.

He stretched his lead to three shots with a birdie on the 12th hole.

Weekley's lone "boo-boo" came four holes later, his approach to No. 16 skidding off the green and near the 17th tee to lead to bogey. He made it back on the closing, lighthouse hole, rolling in a 6-footer for a three-shot edge.

Kim, a second-year pro seeking his first PGA Tour win, was the only one who kept pace with Weekley. Starting two shots off the lead, Kim made eagle on the second and stayed close with two birdies on the front.

The 22-year-old nearly saw it fall apart, dunking his tee shot

on the 10th hole into the water. But he chipped in to save par.

Kim also saved par from off the green on the 18th to remain two shots behind.

Does anyone have chance of halting Weekley's run?

"It's going to depend on him, really," said Baddeley, the 2006 Verizon Heritage winner.

Weekley swore a year ago as he sat with the champions' plaid jacket he wouldn't change because of success. He was true to his word.

Weekley charmed the galleries again with his folksy, good ol' golfer outlook.

He teed it up with his mother, Patsy, in Wednesday's pro-am, then got angry, he says, when she outdrove him on the first hole.

He took time during the sec-

ond round to smooth a bunker on the 16th hole. "I ain't too good to rake a bunker," Weekley said simply.

When asked where his garish checked winner's coat was, he smiled and said it was packed up in his mama's car after he wore it to "march around the lagoon," Weekley's description of the tournament's opening ceremonies.

Talking of friend Glen Day, Weekley said, "He's a redneck, just like I am."

Weekley chewed tobacco at times during his round. As he approached the 18th tee, Weekley told a little girl who wanted a golf ball, "Let me hit it and I'll bring one back."

Weekley delivered on his promise, as he has the past two years at Harbour Town.

Baguio propels Red Bull to victory over Purefoods

MANILA, Philippines—In Red Bull’s initial outing minus Junthy Valenzuela, Cyrus Baguio came through with a performance showing he’s ready to become the team’s new leader.

Baguio stood at the forefront of the Barakos’ bid as they overcame the Purefoods Tender Juicy Giants, 98-96, in a fierce duel Wednesday night to catch up with Coca-Cola at second place in the 2007-08 Smart PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta Coliseum.

The flamboyant guard-forward out of Santo Tomas exploded for 25 of his 27 points in

the second half, including a reversed lay-up and a triple inside the last 20 seconds of play.

In a wild, wild windup, Rich Alvarez had his contributions as the Barakos bounced back from a loss the last time out, pulling even with the Tigers at 3-1.

Baguio and Alvarez combined for all of Red Bull’s last 14 points, proving to be Purefoods’ biggest executioners as the Giants suffered a second loss in four starts. The Giants fell to joint fourth with the Talk n Text Phone Pals, the Air21 Express,

the Magnolia Beverage Masters and the Alaska Aces.

Baguio delivered the coup de grace in his explosive game with a triple beating the shot-clock buzzer, giving the Barakos a 98-93 cushion with time down to 11 seconds.

Earlier, he stole off Peter June Simon then scored on a reversed lay-up on a feed by Alvarez capping a seven-to-nothing run that carried Red Bull ahead at 95-92.

With Darius Rice returning to play after suffering an injury in the fourth quarter of their game

against Air21 a week ago, the Giants took control early on, leading by as many as 15 early in the third quarter.

Second Game

Red Bull 98 – Baguio 27, Parada 22, Alvarez 15, Cruz 8, Najorda 6, Pennisi 6, Duncil 4, Adriano 4, Ybanez 1, Robinson 1, Hrabak 0

Purefoods 96 – Rice 31, Raymundo 18, J. Yap 13, Villanueva 12, Simon 8, Evangelista 8, Lanete 3, R. Yap 3, Salvador 0, Yee 0

Quarterscores: 24-24; 44-51; 78-75; 98-96. (www.pba.com.ph)

development.”

The two also met with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and played pickup games with some of the local teams before again meeting with NMIFA officials to further discuss their developmental plans and programs.

Lion Hearts 1

Anthony Rogolifoi Jr. pitched a near shutout game in the PTI Dolphins’ 14-1 triumph over the Lion Hearts.

Rogolifoi gave up four hits with five strikeouts and two walks in the game shortened by the 10-run mercy rule.

Jonathan Celis went 4-for-4 with two runs and a two-RBI double in the first inning.

In other games, the Fielders pulled off an 8-4 win over the Jets on April 19, while the Lion King scored a 15-0 shutout win against the D9ers on April 17. The D9ers defeated the Lion Hearts, 16-13, on April 12, while on April 10 the Fielders tripped the Doplhins, 12-8.

The Jets cruised past the Lion Hearts on April 8, 18-5, while the Fielders trounced the Kagman crew on April 6, 16-9. The Jets edged the Lion Hearts on April 5, 15-12.

8, Banatasa 6, Doronilla 5, Dugos 4, Pardinan 3.

Scoring by quarters: 21-21, 47-44, 82-65, 100-93.

Referees: Arnold Mesa and Dado Vistal.

Second Game

Advance X-Terminators 101 – Estolas 31, Villarin 19, Pagarao 17, Lim 14, Mendoza 6, R. Aranda 3, Gamboa 3, Mendoza 3, De Dios 2.

GEC Pawnshop 100 – Wallace 24, Camacho 23, Ajoste 14, Cacho 11, Casabuena 11, Umali 7, Celis 6,Lansang 4.

Scoring by quarters: 19-18, 42-50, 70-77, 101-100.

Referees: Jess Pabula and Michael A. White.

a 10-1 card tallying 346 points while limiting their opponents to 225 and winning 27 sets in the three-month long tournament.

For more information, call PIC entertainment manager John Waechter at PIC at 234-7976 ext. 5147 from Mondays to Fridays from 8am to 5pm or email him at sportsmanager@picsaipan.com.

AFC

From Page 28

“NMIFA is geared towards developing the youth with the establishment of clubs, which is essential part of every football

program.”

Sugihara and Gautam said from establishing the youth, men’s, and women’s programs NMIFA is now geared toward strengthening the club system.

“NMIFA and football on Saipan rapidly change in a short

FALCONS

From Page 28

the game and walked one batter.

Kapileo, who was part of the CNMI All-Star team that saw action in the Big League World Series in Easley, South Carolina, last year, went 3-for-4 scoring twice and had a two-RBI double in the fourth inning.

The Falcons also used a five-run second inning in securing their fifth win against six losses.

In other Big League games the past week, the Aztecs slaughtered the Dolphins, 16-4 on April 19, while the Hustlers edged the Falcons, 5-4, on April 15.

Two days before that the Hustlers suffered a 4-3 loss to the Falcons on April 13, while the Falcons scored consecutive close wins over the Hustlers, 4-3, and Aztecs 6-5, on April 12 and 6.

JUNIOR LEAGUE Ol’Aces 6, Lion Hearts 5

The UMDA Ol’Aces squeezed out a 6-5 win over the Kagman Lion Hearts of Reps. Ed Salas and Rosmond Santos.

Kevin Yamada pitched 4.1 innings in relief giving up two runs on five hits with five strikeouts and one walk.

Lamarc Iguel started for Ol’Aces lasting 2.2 innings. He was tagged with three runs on four hits with three strikeouts and no walk.

Jets 9, Lion Hearts 4

Anthony Salas went 3-for-4 with one run to help the Juan S. Tenorio and Pacific Amusement-

chipped in 24 markers. Manuel Ajoste, Molly Cacho, and Amor Casabuena finished with 14, 11, and 11 each.

Earlier, the Giants turned to its ex-VisMinda players in handing MIGS its third straight loss after pulling off a 100-93 triumph.

Banjo Basila, Pando Muleta, and Danny Bicera—all members of UFO champions and perennial title contender VisMinda—joined hands in second half to foil MIGS’ several come back attempts.

Basila had a breakout game ending up with 25 points, while Muleta backed him up with 18 markers as well as orchestrating the team’s offensive plays.

will start at 5:30pm with the final match at 8:30pm.

Herbalizers, Fatingali, 670 Boom Boom, Spike’A’Sauras, 15 Of Fame, MHS Peers, MHS Young Gunz, and GCA are the other competing teams.

Games tomorrow will have the Young Gunz taking on the Okies at 5:30pm, while Spike’A’Sauras battles GCA in

backed Jets tamed the Lion Hearts, 9-4, last April 12.

Salas had an RBI double in the Jets’ three-run third inning, while Keoni Lizama went 3-for-4 with one run and an RBI.

Harry Nakamura held the Lion Hearts to 6-for-25 in batting in seven innings of work. He gave up two earned runs on seven hits with six strikeouts and one walk.

Fielders 16, Ol’Aces 10

Peter Tenorio belted a fourth inning home run to help the Fielders score a 16-10 win over Ol’Aces.

Tenorio went 2-for-4 with two runs, four RBIs and that two-run shot in the Fielders’ eight-run fourth inning.

Eloy Cruz also went 2-for-4 with two runs scored and three RBIs.

SENIOR LEAGUE Dolphins 14,

Bicera muscled his way inside against MIGS defenders to finish with 16 points.

Brendo Talania netted 15 points while George De Guzman tallied 14 more.

Raymond Cadagat remains MIGS’ main scoring option drilling in 28 points to continue showcasing his offensive prowess. Ronald Delos Reyes added 22 points while Jun Tabora came up with 17.

First Game

TASI Tours 100 – Basila 25, Muleta 18, Bicera 16, Talania 15, De Guzman 14, De Belen 6, R. Peredo 6.

MIGS 93 – Cadagat 28, Delos Reyes 22, Tabora 17, Tagle

the 6:30pm second game. The third match will feature Herbalizers against Fatingali while Kiss My Pass goes for their third straight win when they meet Gigi at 8:30pm.

Last year, top seed Limarh completed its amazing one-loss season when they scored a 15-7 win over the Sand Smackers to win the title. They finished with



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

| MLB STANDINGS | | | | | Brandt Snedeker | 70-70-70 | 210 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|----------|-----|--|--|-------------------------|----------|-----|------|-------|--------|----|---|------|---|-----------|----|---|------|-----|---------|---|---|------|-------|----------|---|----|------|---|-----------|---|----|------|-------|---------------|----------|-----|
| AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division <table><tr><td></td><td>W</td><td>L</td><td>Pct</td><td>GB</td></tr><tr><td>Boston</td><td>12</td><td>7</td><td>.632</td><td>—</td></tr><tr><td>Baltimore</td><td>11</td><td>7</td><td>.611</td><td>1/2</td></tr><tr><td>Toronto</td><td>9</td><td>9</td><td>.500</td><td>2 1/2</td></tr><tr><td>New York</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>.474</td><td>3</td></tr><tr><td>Tampa Bay</td><td>8</td><td>10</td><td>.444</td><td>3 1/2</td></tr></table> | | | | | | W | L | Pct | GB | Boston | 12 | 7 | .632 | — | Baltimore | 11 | 7 | .611 | 1/2 | Toronto | 9 | 9 | .500 | 2 1/2 | New York | 9 | 10 | .474 | 3 | Tampa Bay | 8 | 10 | .444 | 3 1/2 | Rocco Mediate | 74-65-71 | 210 |
| | | | | | | W | L | Pct | GB | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Boston | 12 | 7 | .632 | — | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Baltimore | 11 | 7 | .611 | 1/2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Toronto | 9 | 9 | .500 | 2 1/2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | New York | 9 | 10 | .474 | 3 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Tampa Bay | 8 | 10 | .444 | 3 1/2 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | Lee Janzen | 69-70-71 | 210 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | John Mallinger | 70-69-71 | 210 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Michael Letzig | 68-73-70 | 211 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Steve Flesch | 70-71-70 | 211 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Kevin Na | 71-67-73 | 211 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| LOCAL SCORES | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|----|----|----|--|--|
| FMI Standings | | | | | | | |
| O'Acres | 3 | 0 | | | | | |
| Advance X-Terminators | 3 | 0 | | | | | |
| GEC Pawnshop | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| Shirley's Coffee Shop | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| TASI Tours Giants | 2 | 2 | | | | | |
| Price Costco | 1 | 1 | | | | | |
| Starwater | 0 | 1 | | | | | |
| SMF-Seabridge | 0 | 2 | | | | | |
| MIGS | 0 | 3 | | | | | |
| NMIVA Standings | | | | | | | |
| | W | L | PF | PA | SW | | |
| Kiss My Pass | 2 | 0 | 66 | 29 | 6 | | |
| Angan | 2 | 0 | 54 | 54 | 4 | | |
| Gigi | 2 | 1 | 78 | 84 | 4 | | |
| Spike'A'Sauras | 1 | 0 | 30 | 27 | 2 | | |
| 670 Boom Boom | 1 | 0 | 28 | 20 | 2 | | |
| Fatingali | 1 | 0 | 28 | 28 | 2 | | |
| MHS Peers | 1 | 0 | 24 | 24 | 2 | | |
| Snap Crackle Pop | 1 | 1 | 58 | 41 | 3 | | |
| Spiked Punch | 1 | 1 | 51 | 42 | 3 | | |
| MHS Okies | 0 | 1 | 28 | 28 | 1 | | |
| Herbalizers | 0 | 1 | 26 | 28 | 1 | | |
| 15 Of Fame | 0 | 1 | 24 | 24 | 1 | | |
| GCA | 0 | 2 | 53 | 47 | 2 | | |
| MHS Young Gunz | 0 | 2 | 53 | 61 | 2 | | |
| Tsunami | 0 | 2 | 26 | 60 | 1 | | |
| PF-Points scored by team | | | | | | | |
| PA-Points scored against team | | | | | | | |
| SW-Sets won | | | | | | | |

| VERIZON HERITAGE SCORES | | | |
|---|----------|-----|--|
| HILTON HEAD ISLAND, South Carolina (AP)—Scores | | | |
| Saturday from the Verizon Heritage, a \$5.5 million (€3.5 million) U.S. PGA Tour event at the 7,697-yard, par-71 Harbour Town Golf Links: | | | |
| Third Round | | | |
| Boo Weekley | 69-64-65 | 198 | |
| Anthony Kim | 67-67-67 | 201 | |
| Aaron Baddeley | 69-67-67 | 203 | |
| Jason Bohn | 70-66-67 | 203 | |
| Cliff Kresge | 69-66-68 | 203 | |
| Jim Furyk | 68-68-68 | 204 | |
| Stewart Cink | 67-68-70 | 205 | |
| Lucas Glover | 66-66-73 | 205 | |
| Davis Love III | 66-71-69 | 206 | |
| Charles Howell III | 67-71-69 | 207 | |
| Mathew Goggins | 70-67-70 | 207 | |
| Robert Allenby | 70-66-71 | 207 | |
| Nick Dougherty | 67-70-70 | 207 | |
| Shane Bertsch | 71-71-66 | 208 | |
| Ken Duke | 68-69-71 | 208 | |
| Tim Wilkinson | 68-69-71 | 208 | |
| Jonathan Byrd | 69-67-72 | 208 | |
| Matt Kuchar | 71-70-68 | 209 | |
| Billy Andrade | 69-72-68 | 209 | |
| Tim Clark | 70-70-69 | 209 | |
| Camilo Villegas | 67-71-71 | 209 | |
| John Rollins | 67-71-71 | 209 | |
| Justin Leonard | 66-71-72 | 209 | |
| Marc Turnesa | 69-67-73 | 209 | |
| Jay Williamson | 67-69-73 | 209 | |
| Stephen Ames | 71-64-74 | 209 | |
| Frank Lickliter II | 72-69-69 | 210 | |
| Brian Davis | 67-74-69 | 210 | |
| Dean Wilson | 69-71-70 | 210 | |
| Ben Crane | 69-71-70 | 210 | |

Art of War II tickets on sale

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

TRENCH TECH

Tickets are now on sale for the May 10 all-island grappling and submission challenge to be held at Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym's new location in San Antonio.

The first match for the Art of War II, which will be held in the second Saturday of next month at Trench Tech Gym at the Afetnas Square, will be held at 10am.

Tickets are available at Boarderline, Trench Tech Gym, and 670 Rock Steady Shop for only \$5.

Fight organizer Cuki Alvarez added they are looking for more participants in the full grappling and submission event and sign up is still ongoing for \$20. He is inviting all fight clubs to join in the competition, which will have six weight classes both in the men's and women's divisions.

Application forms are available in all ticket outlets. Food and drinks will be available to all fans.

Several mixed martial arts fighters from Guam will also be joining the competition to challenge Saipan's best grapplers.

Trench Tech Purebred Saipan Gym co-instructor Tetsuji Kato



Participants in the Art of War Submission and Grappling event pose at the podium in this file photo taken in last year's competitions at the Garapan Central Park roundhouse.

will also compete in the May 10 fight as he will go up against Guam's top purple belt Wil Escobar in a 10-minute match with the winner earning the title of

the "King of the Mat".

For more information, listen to Power 99 or wait for announcements to be published in the newspapers.

All Trench Tech events will now be held at Trench Tech's new gym at Afetnas Square in San Antonio, which is an air-conditioned 15,708-sq.-ft. facil-

ity that can has a seating capacity of 1,500 to 2,000 fans.

After the Art of War II, the next MMA event by Alvarez is Trench Warz VIII in June.

SOPHIA Walk, World Walking Day on May 11



The Saipan Walking Association will hold the combined 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day on May 11 in cooperation with J.M. and Associates.

Named after former first lady Sophia Tenorio, SOPHIA stands for Saipan Outdoor Physical Health Invigorating Adventure, while World Walking Day was initiated by the International Federation of Popular Sports and is celebrated in the month of May by IVV member countries and direct member clubs around the world.

According to SAIWAI vice president Yoichi Matsumura the SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day will be held along the beautiful shore of the Saipan Beach Pathway. It will also offer both 5- and 10-kilometer routes. It will have a 7am start time.

"As you may know, since the inception of this annual international walking event, SOPHIA Walk, SAIWAI has taken the lead to carry out this event in camaraderie with Japan Turtle Club as well as the Hasaki Rotary Club of Japan. Holding the event has served and shown our commitment to the continuing friendship and

building better relations with the participants from Japan."

Last year, the World Walking Day Walk attracted 102 participants, 20 of which were members of the Nippon Turtle Association.

Aside from the 20 Japanese walkers, which included the event's oldest participant, 85-year-old Jo Izumi, the walk also drew American, Korean, Chinese, Filipino, Chamorro and Carolinian participants.

Like all SAIWAI activities, IVV members will receive credit for joining the 9th Annual SOPHIA Walk and World Walking Day. The IVV has member walking clubs in the U.S., Canada, Brazil, Japan, South Korea, Turkey, Nepal, Australia, New Zealand, the CNMI, and 29 other European countries, including Germany.

The next event in SAIWAI's calendar is the 2nd Annual PTI Aqua Walk set for June 12.

For more information about SAIWAI and its future events, contact Mario at 322-8876, Hiroko at 322-8781, or Bea at 285-1694.

SAIWAI was incorporated as a non-profit corporation on July 27, 2001, and was established to promote public health through non-competitive walking. *(Mark Rabago)*

Coaches meeting today for NYBA Under-16 cage league



Youth teams are again advised to get ready for the opening of the NYBA 16-and-under Basketball League on April 28 at the Garapan Basketball Court.

JON PEREZ

By JON PEREZ
REPORTER
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A coaches meeting will be held today, April 21, 6:30pm at the Marianas Health

Services office in middle road for the upcoming Northern Youth Basketball Association 16-and-under league.

Coaches of all participating teams are advised to attend the meeting in order for their squad to be included in the list and schedule this season.

The 16-and-under league will have three divisions namely: Division I, 12-and-under; Division II, 14-and-under; and Division III, 16-and-under.

The league is set to open on April 28 at 5pm at the Garapan Basketball Court across from the Bank of Guam.

Two games will be held every Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays with makeup games to be played every Saturday. The first game will start at 5:30pm and the second game follows at 7pm.

The entrance fee is \$100 per team and a maximum of 14 teams are allowed in each division.

For more information, call Roslyn Leon Guerrero at 483-5672 or Joe Diaz at 233-4646.

SPORTS BRIEFS

BASA 2008 league opens next month

Belau Amateur Softball Association board member Brian Adelbai is reminding interested team managers and coaches to start preparing for their 2008 season, which is set to open tentatively next month. The opening date is not yet settled and will be one of the issues to be discussed in their next week's meeting. The date and venue of the meeting will be announced at a later date. BASA recently crowned Salty Boyz as its Masters league champion when they defeated PTI 83, 2-1, in the three-game finals series. Finals most valuable player Darwin Masaharu and pitcher Leo Bobai led Salty Boyz' title win. Masaharu went 8-for-9 with eight RBIs in the best-of-three series while Bobai pitched a 6-0 shutout in Game 3. For more information, call Adelbai at 234-8438 or Ace Yoshida at 236-2549 and 483-2546. *(Jon Perez)*

BANMI referees meeting today

The Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands Referees Association will have a meeting today at 8pm at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium. BANMI-RA president and CNMI national team coach Rufino Aguon is calling all active referees and members to attend the meeting. Up for discussion is the current and future issues involving Saipan basketball tournaments. Other BANMI-RA officers are Arnold Mesa, vice president; Abner Venus, secretary; and Mike White, treasurer. The current referees officiating in various Saipan basketball leagues are Jess Pabula, Manny Sitchon, Noel Delos Santos, Eric Artillaga, Gilbert Espinosa, and Dado Vistal. *(Jon Perez)*

Saturday opening for Tinian Dynasty caging

The 8th Annual Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino Basketball League is set to open on April 26, Saturday, at the Tinian Gymnasium. The annual league, organized by Club TDHC, attracted seven teams led by defending champion Food and Beverage Service department and runner-up casino department. Other competing teams are F&B Chefs—which placed third last year—Finance, Shipping, Housekeeping and F.O., and Security Department. Club TDHC is headed by acting president Eddie Cannoay and supported by TDHC manager Tom Liu and adviser Antonio "Uncle" Quan. *(Jon Perez)*



Art of War II tickets on sale

Tickets are now on sale for the May 10 all-island grappling and submission challenge to be held at Trench Tech Purebred Saipan

Gym's new location in San Antonio.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Duncan carries Spurs to Game 1 win over Suns in double-OT

Midway through the first quarter after missing two jumpers, Tim Duncan threw the ball up yet again, then held his arms wide. This time, would the shot fall? It did.

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28 MONDAY, APRIL 21, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

AFC pleased with NMIFA programs

Two teams tie for lead in beach volleyball

By JON PEREZ

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REPORTER



Asian Football Conference Vision Asia division development officer Biplav Gautam, left, and AFC development officer Keita Sugihara, third left, join Northern Mariana Islands Football Association officials led by president Jerry Tan, fourth left, for a group photo at the NMIFA office at the TSL building on Saturday. Others in photo are Wes Bogdan, second left, and Vicki Izuka.

JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The rapid development of football in the CNMI brought smiles to two Asian Football Confederation officials, which were on island this weekend to assess the programs started by the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

AFC development officer Kaita Sugihara and AFC Vision Asia Division development officer Biplav Gautam arrived on Saipan last Thursday and spent Friday and Saturday meeting with NMIFA officials to get an update

of its football programs.

Sugihara said he and Gautam even visited the training sessions conducted by the men's and women's national teams in preparation for this weekend's Marianas Cup against Guam.

They also witnessed the Youth Football Festival at San Antonio Elementary School and inspected some of the facilities and venues in football games. Sugihara and Gautam visited the three schools used in football games—Hopwood Junior High School, Saipan Southern High School, and Garapan



Elementary School—as well as the Oleai Field inside the Susupe Sports Complex, CPA Field, and the one at American Memorial Park.

"A lot has changed since the first time we came here in October 2006. We can see a lot of positive things in NMIFA's programs. We are very much impressed with the development," said Sugihara.

Gautam added NMIFA's program is centered on developing the sport at the grassroots level and establishing clubs.

See AFC on Page 26



Falcons ground Jets in Big League

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REPORTER



Tako Camacho and Nunu Kapileo pitched and batted their way into the game to help the Sablan Topline Tanapag Falcons trounce JET Realty Jets in yesterday's Big League game in the Saipan Major League at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.

Camacho pitched seven no-relief innings and despite giving up 14 hits was backed up by the Falcons defense. He allowed the Jets to 0-for-7 in batting when two or three runners are in scoring position.

Camacho even held the Jets to 8-for-29 in batting for a .275 average. He was also tagged with two earned runs but had six strikeouts in

See FALCONS on Page 26

Tanapag Falcons hurler Tako Camacho prepares to throw a pitch to Jets shortstop Shane Yamada in their Big League game in the Saipan Little League yesterday at the Francisco M. Palacios Baseball Field.



X-Terminators slip past GEC in FMI league

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER



The Advance X-Terminators leaned

on its veterans and youth players in squeezing out a 101-100 win over GEC Panwshop in Friday night's action in the 2008 FMI-Inter-Color Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The veteran pair of Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr. and the come-backing Melvin Villarin teamed up with the youthful Lerio Pagarao and Jonathan Lim in the X-Terminators' fourth quarter comeback to secure the Advance-backed crew's third straight win in as many games.

The win allowed the X-Terminators to join the Sonny Flores-mentored Ol'Aces on top of the standings as both teams sport a 3-0 record. The loss dropped the Pawnbrokers to a three-way tie with Shirley's Coffee Shop-Blue Hauz and TASI Tours from third to fifth spots with similar 2-2 slates.

It was a tight contest at the start of



JON PEREZ

Andres "Jhun" Estolas Jr. of the Advance X-Terminators tries to score against Steve Rasa in this file photo taken in their FMI Inter-Color Basketball League game against Shirley's Coffee Shop-Blue Hauz on April 9 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

the first quarter but GEC slowly pulled away in the second and third periods as Manuel Ajoste, Budz Camacho, and Mark Wallace joined forces to allow the Pawnbrokers enjoy several double-digit leads.

Estolas, Villarin, Pagarao, and Lim
See X-TERMINATORS on Page 26